

The Supreme Court of Ohio

Module 3: Criminal & Civil Procedures

Lesson 7: Civil courts





- All the information provided in these short lessons is publicly available and provides a simplified view of Criminal and Civil Procedures in the State of Ohio for participants to gain a basic understanding.
- Remember: Procedures vary across jurisdictions so it is important to always check the steps in the process in the jurisdiction you are working.
- This information is NOT intended to be construed as legal advice.

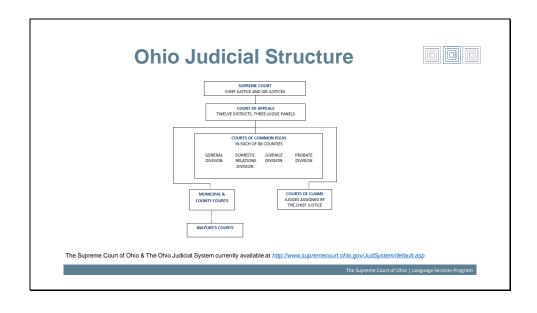
Lesson 7 Civil Courts (Common Pleas, Municipal, County Court of Claims, and Mayor's Courts in Ohio)

Objective • Gain a basic understanding of the structure and work of the Courts of Common Pleas, Municipal & County Courts, Courts of Claims, and Mayor's Courts in Ohio) (not including the Juvenile Division).

General Purpose of Civil Courts



- Settle disputes between individual parties
- Liability finding
- Restitution or Compensation (if applicable)



Court of Claims (Ohio Revised Code, Title XXVII, Chapter 2743)

A statutorily created court



• Hears civil cases against the State of Ohio and its agencies

https://ohiocourtofclaims.gov/

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Court of Claims (Ohio Revised Code, Title XXVII, Chapter 2743)

- Typical Cases involve
 - Contract Disputes
 - Medical Malpractice
 - Property Damage
 - Personal Injury
 - Immunity of State Officers and Employees
 - Employment Discrimination
 - Wrongful Imprisonment
 - Public Records Claims



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Court of Common Pleas (Article IV of the OH Constitution)

- Available in every county (88)
- Serves as a trial court
- Has county-wide jurisdiction
- May be subdivided into 4 divisions



Court of Common Pleas General Division

- Typical civil cases (\$15,000 or more)
 - Tort
 - Contract
 - Real property
- Has some appellate jurisdiction



Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division

- Jurisdiction
 - Divorce or dissolution of marriage
 - Annulment
 - Legal separation
 - Spousal support
 - Allocation of parental rights and responsibilities

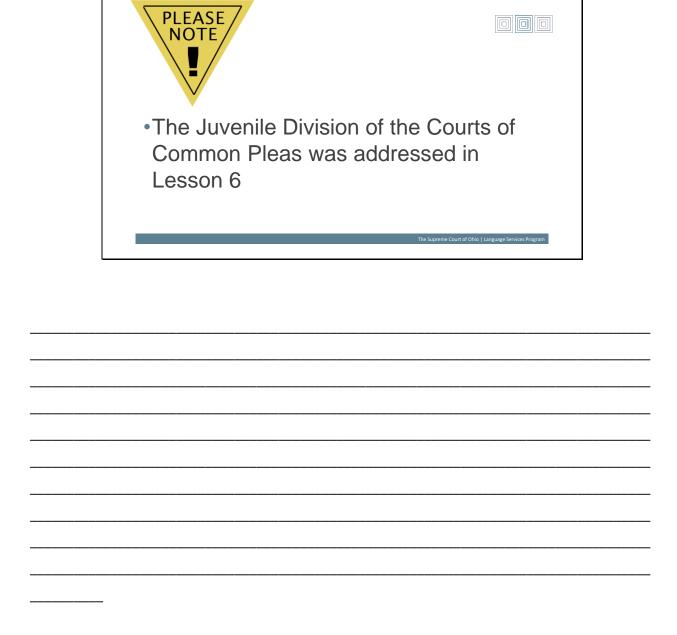
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Court of Common Pleas Probate Division

Jurisdiction

- Probate of wills
- Supervision of the estate administration
- Guardianships
- Issuance of marriage licenses
- Adoption proceedings
- Determination of mental competency
- Eminent domain





Municipal & County Courts (Ohio General Assembly)

- Can hold jury trials
- Jurisdiction
 - Nearly identical for criminal matters
 - Limited for civil matters (\$0 \$15,000)
 - Small Claims Court (\$0 \$6,000)



Mayor's Courts (Municipal Corporation (200+) with no Municipal Court)



- Mayor's court are not part of judicial branch in Ohio.
- Are not courts of record.
 - A person convicted in mayor's court may appeal to the municipal or county court.
 - Hear traffic offenses and violation of municipal ordinances.

Lesson 7 Review Key Points to Remember





- General purpose of Civil Courts
- Jurisdiction of Civil Courts according to the Ohio Judicial System Structure
- Services provided by Civil Courts according to the Ohio Judicial System Structure

Individual Activity Complete the exercise: Civil Courts in Ohio mix and match worksheet Review the sample forms provided and practice interpreting modes Skills Practice
