

Rocky River Municipal Court Summary



COURT GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Rocky River Municipal Court serves five West Shore communities (Rocky River, Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted and Westlake) and is the level of Ohio's judicial system. The court is located at 21012 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Ohio 44116 and has an informational website at rrcourt.net. The court plays a vital role in the local justice system, ensuring the fair enforcement of laws and the resolution of disputes.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Municipal courts have several key responsibilities:

- **Misdemeanor Criminal Cases:** They handle misdemeanor offenses such as petty theft, and disorderly conduct.
- **Civil Cases** involve claims up to **\$15,000**.
- **Small Claims** with disputes not exceeding **\$6,000**.
- **Traffic Violations:** They address traffic-related offenses.
- **Probation Services:** They provide probation and other community-based services to support rehabilitation.
- **Mediation Services:** They offer mediation to help resolve disputes outside of court.

The key personnel responsible for the court's operation are the municipal court judges and the clerk of courts.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COURT JUDGES

Rocky River Municipal Court has two judges (Presiding Judge Brian Hagan, Judge Joseph Burke) elected every six years by the voters of the five suburbs. The judges' responsibilities include:

- **Presiding Over** misdemeanor criminal cases, civil cases, and small claims cases.
- **Ensuring Fair Trials** in accordance with the law.
- **Issuing Rulings** on motions, evidence, and the final verdicts in cases.
- **Sentencing:** Judges determine appropriate sentences for convicted individuals, including fines, community service, or jail time.
- **Administrative Duties:** manage court schedules, oversee court staff, and ensure the efficient operation of the court.

These responsibilities are crucial for maintaining justice and public safety within the West Shore communities.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLERK OF COURT

The efficient operation of the court is maintained by municipal court clerks and their staffs. The key responsibilities of clerks include:

- **Maintaining All Court Records**, including case files, judgments, and orders.
- **Filing Legal Documents and Maintaining the Court Docket** by scheduling cases for hearings.
- **Assisting the Public** with information regarding court procedures, case statuses, and filing requirements.
- **Collecting** court fees, fines, and costs associated with legal proceedings.
- **Issuing Summons and Subpoenas** necessary for court proceedings.

Rocky River's Clerk of Courts is also elected every six years. The current clerk is Deborah Comery, who is assisted by appointed Deputy Clerk Holly Forsythe.

COURT ACTIVITY

Activity at Rocky River Municipal Court increased in 2024. The court dealt with over 15,100 incoming cases and had over 14,500 terminations.

Incoming, Terminations, and Annual Clearance Rates

Year	Pending- Jan 1	Incoming Cases	Terminations	Pending- Dec 31	Clearance Rate
2020	1,504	11,353	11,564	1,250	10.2%
2021	1,250	12,162	12,101	1,269	99.5%
2022	1,269	12,667	12,667	1,406	98.5%
2023	1,406	13,049	12,992	1,343	99.6%
2024	1,343	15,122	14,564	1,783	96.3%

Source: Supreme Court of Ohio, State of Ohio Court Statistics

Incoming Cases By Type

Case Type	2024
Other Traffic	7,863
Misdemeanors	2,959
Contracts	1,653
Felonies	797
Small Claims	652
O.V.I.	567
Evictions	341
Other Civil	290
Source: Supreme Court of Ohio, State of Ohio Court Statistics	