

Chapter 13
MUNICIPAL COURT

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Chapter 13 MUNICIPAL COURT

Sec. 13-1. Scope of Judicial Branch.

The municipal court is part of the judicial branch of government and the doctrine of separation of powers applies to the municipal court and the balance of municipal government, just as separation of powers applies to the state legislature, executive, and state courts.

(Code 2007, 13-1)

Sec. 13-2. Jurisdiction.

The municipal court has the jurisdiction provided by law.

(Code 2007, 13-2)

Sec. 13-3. Location, Presiding Officer.

The municipal court shall be located in quarters provided by the city commission and shall be presided over by the municipal judge.

(Code 2007, 13-3)

Sec. 13-4. Submission of Budget.

The municipal court cannot be required to submit a budget to the executive branch of government as a prerequisite to submittal of the budget to the legislative branch for an appropriation, but is encouraged to do so.

(Code 2007, 13-4)

Sec. 13-5. Traffic Fines Payable to Clerk.

The municipal judge shall designate the specific offenses under the traffic code of the city, the fines for which may be accepted by the clerk of the municipal court upon a plea of guilty and shall specify, by suitable schedule, the amount of such fines.

(Code 2007, 13-5)

Sec. 13-6. Compliance with Supreme Court Rules.

Court proceedings in the municipal court shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures promulgated by the state supreme court.

(Code 2007, 13-6)

Sec. 13-7. Citation or Summons as First Process.

In each case in municipal court where the alleged violation does not amount to a breach of the peace, first process shall be a citation or summons directing the defendant to appear before the court. In the event the person fails to appear as directed, a warrant shall be issued for the person's arrest.

(Code 2007, 13-7)

Sec. 13-8. Citations; Authority to Issue.

1. The following officers and employees of the city shall have the authority to issue citations in lieu of summons as first process in municipal court on forms of citation approved by the municipal court:
 - (1) Police officers;
 - (2) Animal control officers;
 - (3) Code enforcement officers; and
 - (4) Fire chief, assistant fire chief and fire captain.
2. Such persons shall not be authorized to issue any citation except within the scope of their duties as defined in this Code, or if not herein defined as limited by their traditional duties and expertise.
(Code 2007, 13-8)

Sec. 13-9. Suspended Sentences; Probation; Community Service.

1. The municipal court may, upon entry of a plea of guilty or judgment of conviction:
 - (1) Suspend in whole or in part the execution of sentence; or
 - (2) Place the defendant on probation for a period not exceeding one (1) year on terms and conditions the court deems best; or both. The court may as a condition of probation require the defendant to serve a period of time in volunteer labor to be known as community service. The type of labor and period of service shall be at the sole discretion of the court; provided that any person receiving community service shall be immune from any civil liability other than gross negligence arising out of the community service, and any person who performs community service pursuant to court order or any criminal diversion program shall not be entitled to any wages, shall not be considered an employee for any purpose and shall not be entitled to workmen's compensation, un-employment benefits or any other benefits otherwise provided by law. As used in this paragraph, "community service" means any labor that benefits the public at large or any public, charitable or educational entity or institution.
2. Suspension of execution of the sentence or probation, or both, shall be granted only when the municipal judge is satisfied it will serve the ends of justice and of the public, and the defendant's liability for any fine or other punishment imposed is fully discharged upon successful completion of the terms and conditions of probation.
(Code 2007, 13-9)

Secs. 13-10 to 13-11. Reserved.**Sec. 13-12. Lab Fee for Possession of Controlled Substances.**

The municipal judge shall collect a lab fee of seventy five dollars (\$75.00) upon conviction, from persons convicted of violating possession of a controlled substance code. This fee is established under [Sec. 1-12-3\(4\)](#).

(Ord. 2010-392, eff. 2011-Jan-14)