

Court Services - Courts

CLARIFYING THE ROLES BETWEEN COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENTS

County

Circuit Courts -

Courts of general jurisdiction in Tennessee. Circuit judges hear civil cases, criminal cases and appeals of decisions from General Sessions, Juvenile, and Municipal courts. Their jurisdiction often overlaps Chancery Courts.

The Circuit Court Clerk is responsible for all record keeping of these offices.

General Sessions Court -

Jurisdiction varies by county and is based on state laws and private acts. The court hears civil and criminal cases. Civil jurisdiction is restricted to specific monetary limits and types of actions. Criminal jurisdiction is limited to preliminary hearings in felony cases and misdemeanor trials when a defendant waives the right to a grand jury investigation and trial by jury in Circuit or Criminal Court.

Juvenile Court -

Jurisdiction is vested in Montgomery County General Sessions Courts. General Sessions Judges have exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings involving minors alleged to be delinquent, unruly, dependent, and neglected. They also have concurrent jurisdiction with Circuit, Chancery, and Probate Courts in some areas.

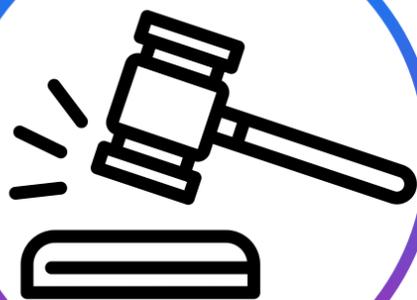
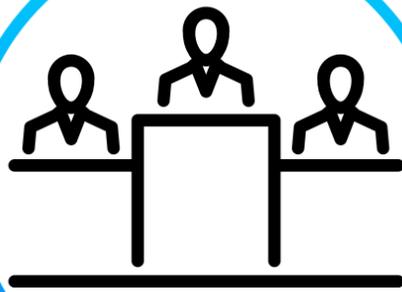
Chancery Court -

A court of equity based on the English system. A Chancellor is a judge who presides over chancery courts and may modify the application of strict rules and adapt relief to the circumstances of individual cases. Chancery handles a wide variety of lawsuits including but not limited to contract disputes, real estate matters, worker's compensation, trusts, paternity, adoption, child support (within chancery case), minor settlements, and name change.

City

Municipal Court -

Jurisdiction in cases involving violations of city ordinances; such as traffic violations, building and codes violations, and other city ordinance offenses.



LEARN MORE AT:



Montgomery County
Government Website



City of Clarksville
Government Website