



MUNICIPAL COURT OF RECORD

WHAT IS A COURT OF RECORD?

A Court of Record is a court in which trial proceedings are recorded upon request.

WHY WOULD A MUNICIPAL COURT BECOME A COURT OF RECORD?

A Municipal Court can become a Court of Record for the following reasons:

- To reduce the number of uncontested cases being appealed
- To reduce the administrative burden for court staff to prepare cases for appeal
- To recapture revenue on uncontested cases appealed to county
- To bring uncontested cases to a final outcome



QUALIFICATIONS FOR COURT OF RECORD

City Must Pass Ordinance

- Lawyer Judge (minimum 2 years in practice) with 2 or 4 year terms
- Ability to Record Proceedings
- Clerk Reports to Judge

Chapter 30 Texas Gov't Code

- City Council must pass ordinance creating the court of record
- Court of Non-Record cannot exist simultaneously
- Any additional courts must be numbered



CIVIL PENALTIES

- If Defendant is provided notice and fails to come into compliance, city ordinance can assess civil penalties
- These are NOT criminal penalties and do not entail court costs
- But must keep records for OCA on all civil judgments

APPEALS

- Appeals on the record
- Defendant must file motion for new trial
- Defendant appealing pays for record going to appellant court



5 Year History of McKinney Municipal Court Cases Appealed to Collin County

Fiscal Year	Number of Cases Appealed	Court Costs	Fees	Fines	Total
2014	370	\$5,861.50	\$1,250.00	\$16,767.80	\$23,879.30
2015	395	\$15,286.30	\$2,100.00	\$39,682.33	\$57,068.63
2016	375	\$24,174.15	\$3,005.00	\$51,212.44	\$78,391.59
2017	383	\$17,628.70	\$3,250.00	\$30,914.84	\$51,793.54
2018	274	\$21,955.00	\$2,975.00	\$37,865.47	\$62,795.47
	1797	\$84,905.65	\$12,580.00	\$176,442.88	\$273,928.53



179 MUNICIPAL COURTS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS ARE COURTS OF RECORD.

10 out of 12 of our benchmark Cities are Courts of Record.

1. Allen – Court of Non-Record
2. Arlington
3. Carrollton
4. Denton
5. Frisco – Court of Non-Record
6. Garland
7. Grand Prairie
8. Irving
9. Lewisville
10. Mesquite
11. Plano
12. Richardson

NEXT STEPS

- June 18th Regular Meeting - Court of Record Ordinance
- Effective date 7/15/2019

QUESTIONS?