

**FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT**  
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**FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT**  
**UPDATE TO EVICTIONS PRACTICES**

Many people in our community face barriers to obtaining stable housing and jobs, particularly those with eviction records. In response to the recommendations from the Columbus Women's Commission's Evictions Ad Hoc Working Committee Report, the Franklin County Municipal Court has implemented a new process that allows persons with eviction records to complete a standard application form to request removal of the particular eviction record from online internet access. This new process will be instrumental in assisting those with eviction records to move forward in a positive direction with their lives. Eviction records removed from online internet access under these provisions, pursuant to Sup.R. 45(E), will remain physically available, unaltered, at the Clerk's office.

The Municipal Court, in collaboration with the Columbus Women's Commission, Municipal Court Clerk, City of Columbus Mayor's Office, City Council, City Attorney's office, Columbus Legal Aid Society, the Columbus Apartment Association, and the Franklin County Auditor, has been working to identify and resolve issues that contribute to the lack of stable housing and homelessness for those at risk in our community.

"This important new process builds on the innovative projects the Municipal Court has already put in place for eviction cases," according to Administrative and Presiding Judge Ted Barrows.

During eviction proceedings, the Court provides onsite access to Community Mediation Services (CMS), Legal Aid's Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP), and Job and Family Services' Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) program. In addition to these services, the Municipal Court's Self-Help Resource Center provides additional one-on-one assistance and education about how individuals may be able to prevent an eviction from being filed, provide information about how to contest an eviction, or if necessary, how to plan for a safe and graceful exit from the property. These projects better assist defendants who may be unfamiliar with the legal system and unaware of their options and available resources.

***To obtain the application form, and for information about how to complete and file it, please visit the Self-Help Resource Center on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of 375 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio.***

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