

***PUTNAM COUNTY
MUNICIPAL COURT***

IN THE MATTER OF:

***RULES OF COURT OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY
MUNICIPAL COURT
OTTAWA, OHIO***

***EFFECTIVE
March 1, 2025***

PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT
245 E MAIN ST SUITE 303
OTTAWA, OHIO 45875
Telephone 419- 523-3110
Fax 419-523-5284

**IN THE MATTER OF:
LOCAL COURT RULES**

JUDGMENT ENTRY

In accordance with Ohio law, the following rules of court for practice and procedure in the Putnam County Municipal Court are hereby adopted as the Local Rules of Court. Adopted by this Court on the 3rd day of February, 2025. These Local Rules supersede and replace all prior Local Rules adopted by this Court.

The Clerk of Court shall forward a certified copy of these rules to the Supreme Court of Ohio pursuant to Civil Rule 83. These rules are provided online at www.putnamcountyohio.gov. Said Clerk shall provide paper copies of these rules to all those duly licensed to practice law before this court upon request thereof.



JUDGE CHAD C. NIESE

2025 MAR 18 12:01

PUTNAM COUNTY
MUNICIPAL COURT

PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:

**LOCAL COURT RULES
OF PUTNAM COUNTY
MUNICIPAL COURT
PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO**

THE RULES OF COURT of the Putnam County Municipal Court are hereby amended as follows:

Effective February 3, 2025, the statutory reference in Local Court Rule 6 is changed from 1901.261(B)(1) to 1901.261(B)(1)(a). Upon request of the Clerk of Courts, an additional \$10.00 will be added to standard court costs on all new case filings. This additional \$10.00 will be placed into the Clerk of Courts Computerization Fund.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



JUDGE CHAD. C. NIESE

PUTNAM COUNTY
MUNICIPAL COURT
1 2025 JAN -9 P 2:32

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF


LOCAL RULES OF COURT-

JUDGMENT ENTRY

APPENDIX B-FILING FEES AND COSTS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Filing Fees and Costs via Appendix B in reference to Expungement / Sealing Fee of the Local Rules of Court be and hereby amended, effective February 3, 2025.

Expungement / Sealing Fee.....\$100.00



JUDGE CHAD C. NIESE

PUTNAM COUNTY
MUNICIPAL COURT
2025 JAN -9 P 2:32

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RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

RULE 1

By virtue of the authority vested in the Putnam County Municipal Judge of Putnam County, Ohio the following rules are hereby adopted for the purpose of expediting the business of the Putnam County Municipal Court.

The Local rule of the Putnam County Municipal Court, hereinafter set forth, shall be interpreted to promulgate the fair, impartial, open and courteous administration of justice under the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio.

CONFLICT

The rules set forth herein are designed as Local Rules under Rule 83 of the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, and in case of conflict herein, the Rules of Civil Procedure take precedence. In the event of conflict with any Traffic Rules or Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Rules of Criminal Procedure and/or Traffic rules take precedence.

RULE 2 COURT SESSIONS

- A. The Court shall be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. There will be no Court on days the Courthouse is closed.
- B. All cases will be heard in the Municipal Court Courtroom on the Third Floor, Putnam County Courthouse located in Ottawa, Ohio unless a conflict exists when another Court is in session.
- C. Court protocol will include:
 - 1. All persons in the Courtroom will stand while the Court is being opened and recessed.
 - 2. There will be no smoking, eating or drinking in the courtroom. Persons with small children will take appropriate action to assure court proceedings are not interrupted.
 - 3. All law enforcement officers will wear their appropriate uniforms while in attendance at a formal court hearing. The wearing of sidearm is left to the officer's judgment but may be restricted on an individual case basis by the court.
 - 4. All law enforcement officers are requested to remain in the official designated waiting area.
 - 5. Parties or those interested in attending proceedings of any pending case in Court must wear appropriate attire. Excessive or distracting dress may be deemed inappropriate by the court and removed from the Courtroom.
 - 6. Attorneys appearing for Court hearings or on Court related proceedings shall wear appropriate attire (coat and tie for male attorneys and appropriate business dress for female attorneys).
- D. The defendant's presence is required at all criminal/traffic pre-trial conferences unless excused by the court. Civil pre-trial hearings may be conducted without the presence of the parties if they are represented by counsel. Conference (telephone) call pre-trials involving civil matters are permissible with approval of the court and must be arranged with the court before the scheduled time of the pre-trial.

- E. All sessions of the Court will be recorded with a recording device by the duly appointed deputy clerk in attendance during its operation. Audio recordings will be maintained by the clerk's office.
- F. When a stenographer is requested for any hearing, the party requesting the stenographer must file a motion with the court in writing within (10) days before the hearing date. Costs for a stenographer for jury or non-jury matters will be assessed to the party making the request.
- G. The Court recognizes the necessity to assure all persons appearing before said Court shall understand their legal rights and the consequences of any pleas made upon arraignment. Each defendant will receive a Court issued form entitled "Rights of Defendant at Arraignment" when appearing for court. The defendant will be instructed to read said form and this document will be signed and presented to the presiding Judge at the time of arraignment.
- H. The Court is cognizant of the fact that a defendant may not be able to financially afford legal representation. If a defendant desires a court appointed attorney, the Judge will instruct the defendant to complete a form entitled "Affidavit of Indigence" with attached questionnaire to determine whether said defendant qualifies for the appointment of counsel. If the Court determines a defendant is entitled to appointed counsel, same shall be so noted on the Court record. The defendant will be instructed to call the assignment clerk at a later time to obtain the name of the assigned counsel.

RULE 3 PLEADINGS

All papers filed with the Clerk, including, but not limited to pleadings, motions, applications, judgments and orders, shall be in compliance with the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure; Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure or the Ohio Rules of Traffic Procedure as the case may deem necessary.

RULE 4 JURY TRIAL

In any civil jury case, counsel for the plaintiff shall file trial briefs with the Clerk of Courts not later than fourteen (14) days before the date of trial. Copies of such trial briefs shall be certified to all opposing counsel or parties unrepresented by counsel. Reply briefs shall be filed with the Clerk not later than ten (10) days before the date of trial, with copies certified to all opposing counsel or unrepresented parties.

In all civil cases wherein a jury has been requested, that party requesting a jury shall advance to the Clerk of Courts office the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) jury demand deposit. This deposit shall be paid not less than twenty-one (21) day prior to trial.

RULE 5 CONTINUANCE AND CANCELLATION

Requests for continuance shall be in writing signed by the party, if unrepresented, or the party's attorney if represented, on a form approved by the Court, and submitted to the Clerk with a certification to all opposing counsel or parties unrepresented by counsel five (5) days before the date set. The requests must contain a sufficient reason for the need of such continuance.

In the event the date set by the clerk is for a jury trial, and the parties involved thereto have the matter settled, notice must be given to the Clerk forty-eight (48) hours before the date of the trial. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in the party responsible for the notification being responsible for the cost of any jurors appearing on the date set for trial.

RULE 6
FEES FOR COMPUTER RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Pursuant to the authority of Ohio Revised Code 1907.261 it is determined for the efficient operation of the Civil Division of Putnam County Municipal Court, funds are required to maintain and advance computerization and technology development throughout the Municipal Court and the Municipal Clerk of Court's office.

The Clerk of Courts is authorized to charge and collect the fee of three dollars (\$3.00) upon the filing of each civil cause of action or appeal. These fees shall be collected under the court Legal Research Fund and shall be paid to the County Treasurer. The Treasurer shall place this money in a separate fund and will disburse it, subject to an appropriation by the Putnam County Commissioners, in an amount not greater than the actual cost for computerizing the court or procuring and maintaining computerized legal research services as stated in O.R.C. 1901.261(A)(1)(2) and (3).

Pursuant to the authority of ORC 1901.261(B)(1)(a), The Clerk of Courts is further authorized to charge a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) upon the filing of each cause of Civil Action, Appeal Action, Criminal Action (other than traffic cases) and docketing and indexing of each aid in execution or petition to vacate, revive or modify a judgment. A cost of twenty dollars (\$20.00) will be charged to all traffic cases. These fees will be used for the purpose of computerization advancement in the Municipal Court clerk of Courts office. Fees collected under the Clerk's computerization fund, shall be paid to the County Treasurer, placed in a separate fund and disbursed subject to an appropriation by the Putnam County Commissioners in an amount no greater than the actual cost for procuring and maintaining the clerk's computerization and technology services.

RULE 7
COURT COSTS AND FEES

The following will be costs for filing and processing cases within the Putnam County Municipal Court, Ohio. (see chart in Appendix) All costs set forth are inclusive of computerization, legal research and special project fees.

COURT COSTS RESPONSIBILITY

All court costs incurred during the filing and pending activity of civil cases in Putnam County Municipal Court are the responsibility of the party filing the action. Court costs not covered by the deposit required at the time of filing will be billed to the Plaintiff at the conclusion of the case. The total of all court costs may be added to the amount of the judgment rendered in the case and reimbursed to the filing party upon the collection of judgment monies.

CIVIL CASE

The filing fee for civil action will be one hundred and five dollars (\$105.00). In addition, clerk action will be assessed a cost of four dollars (\$4.00) per action. A deposit of forty dollars (\$40.00) shall be advanced for an execution on a debtor exam action. For a bank attachment, a one dollar (\$1.00) fee to the bank and a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) deposit to the Clerk is required. A two hundred and ten dollar (\$210.00) deposit will be required for forcible Entry and detainer court actions. Any court fee or cost not paid by the established deposit will be billed to the petitioner.

SMALL CLAIMS CASE

The filing fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be charged for a Small Claims case. There will be a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a counter claim filed in a Small Claims case. An additional thirty dollars (\$30.00) deposit will be charged for Small Claim Debtor's questionnaire requests. A one hundred and fifty dollar (\$150.00) deposit is required for an execution court action. There is a fee to the bank of one dollar (\$1.00) plus a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) deposit to the clerk for a bank attachment.

CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC

The base court costs to be assessed on the filing of a criminal or traffic case in the Putnam County Municipal Court will be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

Criminal Case	Base Cost \$85.00
State Victim Assistance Fund	\$ 9.00
Allen County Crime Stoppers	\$ 1.00
Court special Project Fund	\$ 5.00
Indigent Defendant Support Fund	\$20.00
Clerk Computerization Fund	\$20.00
Putnam County General Fund	\$30.00
Traffic/Moving Violation	Base Cost \$85.00
State Indigent Defendant Support Fund	\$25.00
Indigent Defendant Alcohol Treatment Fund	\$ 1.50
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$ 3.50
State Victims Assistance Fund	\$ 9.00
Clerk's Computerization Fund	\$20.00
Putnam County General Fund	\$26.00
Traffic/Non Moving Violation	Base Cost \$85.00
Indigent Defense Support Fund	\$10.00
Clerk's Computerization Fund	\$20.00
Putnam County General Fund	\$55.00
Parking Violation	Base Cost \$85.00
Clerk's Computerization Fund	\$20.00
Putnam County General Fund	\$65.00

Additional Costs

1. A four dollar fee (\$4.00) for each additional clerk action shall be charged.
2. In the event a license forfeiture is filed with the state Bureau of Motor Vehicles for non-appearance or non-payment of fine and costs, additional cost of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will be assessed.
3. In any case in which the court issues an order under section 4510.13 of the Ohio Revised Code prohibiting an offender from exercising limited driving privileges unless the vehicles which the offender operates are equipped with an immobilizing or disabling device, including a certified ignition interlock device or requires an offender to wear a monitor that provides remote continuous alcohol monitoring, a fee of \$2.50 shall be imposed.

GARNISHMENT

A one hundred ten dollar (\$110.00) deposit will be required upon the initial filing and processing of a garnishment to an employer on personal earnings. There will be a four dollar (\$4.00) charge for further orders of the court or clerk action. The Clerk shall deduct a two per cent (2%) poundage fee from garnishment payments made to the court before disbursing monies to the Plaintiff/Creditor.

REOPENED CASE

A deposit of ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) will be required to reopen any civil action in the Putnam County Municipal Court.

A fifty dollar (\$50.00) cost shall be assessed in criminal and traffic cases when a motion to reopen the case is filed. This includes any action filed to gain court consideration of a case including but not limited to probation violation issues, motion to impose court stipulations, motion for modification of a driver's license suspension or any motion seeking modification of a judgment entry. The party responsible to pay court costs will be notified through the Clerk of Courts office concerning payment of said costs.

DRIVING PRIVILEGE DOCUMENTATION

A twenty dollar (\$20.00) fee shall be charged by the Clerk of Courts to document driving privileges within a defendant's case and to provide a Driving Privilege Card to that Defendant.

SUPOENAS

There will be a twenty-five (\$25.00) deposit fee charged for each subpoena issued by the Clerk of Court on civil or Small Claims cases. This deposit will be used to cover a five dollar (\$5.00) expense of issuance of the subpoena, the costs of law enforcement service on each subpoena and any witness fees. The requesting party will be responsible for outstanding court costs unless directed differently by the Court.

The costs, of issuing a subpoena for a criminal or traffic case, in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be assessed and calculated as court costs on that case. There will be no deposit required for a precept for subpoenas on a criminal case made by the plaintiff, State of Ohio.

WRIT OF EXECUTION/WRIT OF RESTITUTION

A deposit of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) will be the required deposit with the Putnam County Clerk of Courts before the issuance of any writ in the Putnam County Municipal Court.

This deposit money will be used to pay the increased fees involved in the processing and service of the writ, services provided by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department and the court costs.

REMOVAL OF MOBILE HOME

A deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall be required when a precept for any Writ is filed for the removal of a mobile home by the Putnam County Sheriff's office. This writ will be issued by the Putnam County Clerk of Courts office for the removal of an abandoned mobile home or on a mobile home with a value of less than \$3,000. Destruction of the mobile home will be the responsibility of the titled owner.

This deposit money will be used to pay the fees involved in processing and service of the writ proceedings by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department as well as any appraising and advertising fees and court costs.

CERTIFICATE OF JUDGMENT

The cost of obtaining a certificate of judgment will be ten dollars (\$10.00) with an additional four dollar (\$4.00) charge for any further Clerk action.

COPY COST

All copies prepared by the Clerk will be prepared at a charge of ten cents (\$.10) per page which may be added to the court costs of an active case.

SPECIAL PROJECT FEES

Pursuant to the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 1901.26(B)(1), the Putnam County Municipal Court has determined, for the efficient operation of the court, additional fees will be charged at the commencement of all criminal, civil and garnishment proceedings in addition to all fees and costs already established.

A fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be collected on all new criminal cases filed. A fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be collected on all civil cases filed (excluding Small Claims cases), and an additional fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) will be collected on all garnishment motions. These fees are included in the initial costs of the case.

These fees will be paid to the Putnam County Treasurer to be placed in a separate "Putnam County Municipal Court Special Project Fund" to be disbursed only upon order of the Court for special projects as shall be determined by the Court.

RULE 8
FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER

Service of summons on the defendant shall be according to the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure and statute. The plaintiff must deposit two hundred dollars (\$210.00) when filing a Forcible Entry and Detainer action with the court.

The plaintiff and/or plaintiff's attorney or records shall be present in court at the time set for hearing on restitution of the premises. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in a dismissal of the case.

RULE 9
SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

Pursuant to the Revised Code 1925.01, a Small Claims Division has been established in the Putnam County Municipal Court for the recovery of money or for the consideration of a requested judgment of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) or less as set by statute.

Cases filed in the Small Claims Division of the Putnam County Municipal Court will be heard on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 A.M. or as scheduled by the court. In the event of the defendant's denial of the claim, and for good cause, the matter may be scheduled for further hearing by the court.

In the event the defendant is not present in Court when the case is called, the plaintiff is entitled to a default judgment. If the defendant is in Court and the plaintiff is not present on the day the case is called, the case will be dismissed, without prejudice to the plaintiff, and at plaintiff's cost.

Upon a motion to transfer a case from the Small Claims Docket to the Civil Docket, or upon the filing of any counterclaim, cross-claim or similar filing seeking relief in excess of the jurisdictional limit of the Small Claim Court, the moving party must accompany said motion with a case deposit of ninety-five dollars (\$95.00).

RULE 10
JUDGMENT ENTRIES IN CIVIL CASES, EXCEPT SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

In all cases in which parties are represented by counsel and a decision is made by the Court or jury on any issue, prevailing counsel shall, within seven (7) days after announcement of decision, prepare a judgment entry giving effect to such decision and submit the same to opposing counsel. If there is no opposing counsel, same shall be submitted to the court and the entry shall be considered for approval by the court. Opposing counsel shall approve or reject proposed entry within five (5) days after receipt and if he/she rejects, he/she shall within the same five (5) days prepare an entry. Both entries shall be presented to the Judge forthwith, who will thereupon approve one of such tendered entries or prepare an entry to the Judge's satisfaction, duly noting exceptions, and file same with the Clerk of Courts with copies to counsel. Failure of opposing counsel to approve or object within the specified time limits shall be deemed a waiver and acceptance of the tendered entry.

If the prevailing party is not represented by counsel in a contested matter, and a decision is made by the Court or jury on any issue, the Court will prepare a Judgment Entry giving effect to such decision. If there is opposing counsel, same will be submitted to him/her for any objection. Said objections shall be filed with the Court within five (5) business days. The Court will then decide to leave the entry as originally written or modify same.

If the prevailing party is not represented by counsel, the matter is not contested, and a decision is made by the Court on any issue, the Court shall prepare a Judgment Entry giving effect to such decision and submit same to the record.

Upon application by a party for a default judgment in a civil matter, the party so moving shall serve a copy of the motion by regular mail upon the party(s) in default. The motion shall so indicate by a proof of service.

Upon a motion for default judgment being properly filed with the Court, the Court shall wait a period of fourteen (14) days within which any party(s) in default may request a hearing. In the event no hearing is requested, the judgment shall be granted. It is incumbent upon the moving party to submit with said motion a proposed Default Judgment Entry

RULE 11
APPRAISAL FEES FOR SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon an execution wherein personal property is seized for sale by the Sheriff's Department of this county, the Sheriff's office is authorized to expend ten dollars (\$10.00) per item until total of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for all items for the appraisal of the personal property to be sold at the Sheriff's sale is reached.

RULE 12
TRUSTEESHIP

A request for a trusteeship will be filed as a civil action in the Putnam County Municipal Court with a filing fee of one hundred and five dollars (\$105.00). After approval by the court this action allows for the collection of twenty-five per cent (25%) of an applicant's net earnings. These earnings shall be disbursed in equal payments to all verified creditors on a payment schedule established by the Clerk of Courts. Employment garnishment proceedings are stayed while a trusteeship is in place.

To obtain a trusteeship, an applicant must file an "Application for the Appointment of a Trustee" with the Court. A list of all creditors, their addresses, payment mailing address and individual account numbers must be provided to the court on the "Statement as to Creditors" forms provided by the court.

A copy of a most recent billing statement of each account should be provided. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to provide the court with their most recent pay stub and 25% of the next non-exempt earnings in cash for every pay period. This payment to the court will continue each week due by a weekly day specified by the court.

If weekly payment is omitted for any reason, the defendant is required to present a written explanation for the omission. With Court approval said defendant may make weekly payments of five dollars (\$5.00) to maintain the trusteeship as open and valid. In case of sickness, a doctor's excuse is required along with the five dollar (\$5.00) weekly payment. This money will accumulate on the defendant's account and will be disbursed to creditor's. If there is no activity on the defendant's account for one month, the trusteeship will be dismissed by the court and the debtor cannot file a new trusteeship for another six (6) months.

If a payment is missed an explanation must be submitted in writing and the court will determine if submitted excuse is permissible. Missing a payment may be reason for the termination of a trusteeship and is at the discretion of the court. The court will retain two per cent (2%) poundage of all monies held when making disbursement of monies. Information including forms will be available at the Clerk of Courts office.

RULE 13
TRAFFIC COURT

Traffic Court will be held as stated in Rule 2 of these rules, and will follow the rules heretofore described unless changed by this section.

A. In traffic cases the complaint and summons shall be in the form known as the "Uniform Traffic Ticket and Complaint" as set forth in the Ohio Traffic rules. All traffic cases to be designed with a TRD case number must be filed a minimum of one (1) hour before the defendant's scheduled appearance date and time. Failure to do so may result in a discharge of the defendant's citation and a bar of any future filing of the charge against the defendant.

B. The violations Bureau shall operate in accordance with Traffic Rule 13 for traffic and criminal minor misdemeanor cases.

C. The Court may issue a warrant for any defendant who fails to appear for assigned court hearing or fails to answer a traffic citation or summons served upon him/her. Upon the non-appearance of a defendant on a traffic summons or citation, or failure to pay fines or court costs on conviction the Court may issue a "Notice of Forfeiture of Driving Privileges" to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles using the appropriate BMV form.

D. On all traffic and misdemeanor cases citing a violation of a village Ordinance the citing agency shall attach to the citation or complaint a copy of the Village Ordinance and degree of offense (ie. MM, M4, M3, M2 or M1). If the attachment is not included when the citation is filed in Putnam County Municipal Court the penalty for a violation filed under the Village Ordinance Code section will be treated as a similar violation outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. The Clerk of Courts is authorized to charge the penalty amount attached to the most similar offense as outlined in the court's bond schedule. If it is not possible to match the pending violation with a comparable established ORC offense, direction must be obtained from the court.

E. The court may institute appropriate proceedings under Interstate Non-Resident Compact Act administered through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles if the defendant is a non-resident of Ohio. Notice must be sent to the defendant and if no response is obtained, appropriate license forfeiture papers may be sent to the BMV.

F. A Violations Bureau has previously been established, pursuant to Ohio Traffic rule 13 and Criminal Rule 4.1, by this court and its' predecessor, the Putnam County Court. The establishment of the violations Bureau is affirmed and ratified. Said Violations Bureau shall continue and shall operate pursuant to Ohio Traffic Rule 13. Other non-traffic minor misdemeanor cases may be handled pursuant to the procedures of Criminal rule 4.1. The Clerk of courts shall continue as and is hereby designated as Violations Clerk.

G. The use and filing of a ticket that is produced by computer or other electronic means is hereby authorized in the Putnam County Municipal Court. The Electronically produced ticket shall conform in all substantive respects to the Ohio Uniform Traffic Ticket and the requirements of the Ohio Traffic Rules. If an electronically produced ticket is issued at the scene of an alleged offense, the issuing officer shall provide the defendant with a paper copy of the ticket.

RULE 14

BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE CASES

Judgment entries granting limited driving privileges in Bureau of Motor Vehicle cases (implied consent, A. L. S., points, etc.) shall include the following information:

1. Name, address, the last four digits of social security number, and date of birth.
2. Place, address and employment.
3. The following paragraph: "A copy of this entry shall be on the person of the defendant while driving under privileges granted by this court. Any officer observing a violation of the terms of this conditional driving shall seize this entry and immediately notify this court".
4. In alcohol related suspensions, a statement that defendant shall have a -0- blood alcohol content when driving with limited privileges, likewise, failure to take a blood/alcohol test if stopped while operating under limited privileges shall be deemed grounds for termination of limited privileges.
5. Proof of Insurance.

REINSTATEMENT FEE PLAN

Following a license suspension which has been recorded with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles an individual may gain limited driving privileges and establish a reinstatement fee payment plan by petitioning the local court. The defendant must file appropriate forms with the court which include: "Reinstatement Fee Plan Application" and "Application for Limited Driving Privileges"(copies included in appendix). These completed forms must be filed with the court by the applicant along with a fifty dollar (\$50.00) filing fee, proof of insurance, proof of employment and a copy of the letter received from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This action will be docketed as a miscellaneous court action.

Upon approval of the request by the local Municipal Court Judge, notification of acceptance will be sent to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles by the Clerk of Courts. All information concerning payments instructions will be mailed to the petitioner directly from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Limited driving privileges are valid only while defendant is current in their payments according to the BMV Installment Payment Plan.

RULE 15
PAYMENT OF FINES AND COSTS

In cases where a fine and costs are assessed, the payment will be made immediately after the conclusion of the case. All payments are to be made to the Clerk of Courts of Putnam County Municipal Court. If defendant is unable to pay fines and costs immediately to the Court the following restrictions will be enforced:

- A. If the defendant is unable to pay the required fine and costs he/she may make an oral request to the court for an extension of time for payment.
- B. If an extension to pay is granted by the court, the defendant must sign a payment agreement at the clerk's office (Pay or Appear form in appendix). This statement documents the amount owed, the due date of the payment and the conditions for failure to pay by the date established.
- C. Payments upon a case shall be applied as required by law.
- D. If restitution has been ordered by the Court to be paid through the Clerk of Courts office as part of the final entry an additional charge of two percent (2%) poundage will be charged on the total restitution amount and added to clerk's fees.
- E. When a defendant is given time to pay fine and costs, the mandatory "Pay or Appear" agreement will provide said defendant a date to appear for a hearing. If the defendant fails to appear at this scheduled hearing and has not honored the "Pay or Appear" agreement reason for non-payment will be determined by the court and necessary action will be ordered.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE/COLLECTION SERVICES

All court costs, fines, attorney fees and/or restitution owed on cases filed in the Putnam County Municipal Court will be entered onto the Accounts Receivable computer program.

The defendant will receive an itemized statement created at the conclusion of each case. The total fees must be paid within the following four-month period (120 days). Additional notices will be sent to the defendant every 30 days concerning the balance due in fines, costs, attorney fees and/or restitution. If the account is not paid at the conclusion of the 120-day period or any extension of time granted by the Court, the account may be turned over to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for collection or to a private collection agency contracted by the county to collect delinquent funds. There will be a collection fee added as costs, payable to the collection agency, in court approved cases in which a judgment has been determined and a closing entry has been entered on the record.

Outside collection proceedings may begin immediately if the defendant fails to appear for a court hearing, fails to remain current in court ordered payments or does not provide the court with a current address. No additional notice need be sent concerning outside collection procedures to defendants who fail to comply with court orders.

REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT

The Court hereby determines that for the efficient operation of the Court any overpayment received for ten dollars (\$10.00) or less will be receipted as Putnam County Municipal Court Fee.

It is hereby ordered that the Clerk of Courts will not issue refunds in any division that total ten dollars (\$10.00) or less. Overpayment of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less will be receipted as a Putnam County Municipal Court fee and disbursed at the end of the month to clerk's fees in the county general fund. Overpayment in excess of ten dollars (\$10.00) will be refunded by check after thirty (30) days to the payee.

Any refund amount may be made upon order of the court Defendant must submit a written request for refund to the court.

RULE 16

HOUSE ARREST PROGRAM

Upon application by a defendant or their attorney, and upon order of Court a prisoner may participate in a House Arrest Program. Said program for the Municipal Court shall be administered by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department and the fees shall be set by said department. No House Arrest Program may be instituted except by specific order of the Court.

RULE 17

WORK RELEASE PROGRAM

Section 5147.28 et seq. of the Revised Code of Ohio provides for the establishment of a prisoner work-release program. Said program has been established with the agreement of all Courts in Putnam County.

Whereas, the officials of all Courts in Putnam County together with those persons and officials connected with the administration and with the working of such program, have met and agreed upon and approved a program which they believe to be feasible under the provision of such statutes and provided in such cases.

The prisoner work-release program shall be administered and subject to the rules, terms and conditions of the program. Said rules may be complemented, amended or changed by Judgment Entry of the Court. See appendix for copy of "Work Release Rules and Regulations" and "Work-Release Agreement".

RULE 18

PROBATION DEPARTMENT FOR PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

A Probation Department for the Putnam County Municipal Court was established effective July 1, 1996. The department shall be staffed as necessary. Said department shall provide assistance to the Court by furnishing pre-sentence investigation reports, monitoring probationers during their term of probation, reporting to the Court violations of terms of probation and making recommendations to the Court concerning termination of probation following a successful completion of all terms of probation. The Probation Department shall perform other duties consistent with the effective administration of justice as deemed necessary by the Court

A copy of the "Rules of Probation" are included in the appendix of these rules. The Probation Officers shall have the power to modify those conditions according to experience and circumstances of each probationer.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 2951.021(B)(1) the court will access as part of the court costs a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee for the preparation of a pre-sentence report. This money will be collected by the Clerk of Courts office and disbursed to the Probation Department.

The Court will access as a part of the court costs a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) per month probation fee, payable by all probationers as directed by the Court. Said fees may be increased not to exceed the allowable amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month, or may be decreased as may be required to maintain the Probation Office of Putnam County Municipal Court.

Probationers will make a monthly payment to the Clerk of Courts office to be applied to court costs, fines or restitution which may be owed by said probationer. Failure to do so will be reported to the Probation Officer immediately.

RULE 19

BOND SCHEDULE FOR MISDEMEANOR, CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC OFFENSES

If a defendant is arrested for misdemeanor offense and is not issued a summons, and is not released on her personal recognizance, the following bail bond schedule shall apply, unless otherwise noted.

1st Degree Misdemeanor - \$3,000.00

2nd Degree Misdemeanor - \$2,000.00

3rd Degree Misdemeanor - \$1,500.00

4th Degree Misdemeanor - \$1,000.00

A ten percent (10%) bond can only be posted if approved by a Judge.

BOND/BAIL IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.251 the previously given bail bond schedule shall not apply to any offense of violence if the alleged victim of the offense charged was a family or household member at the time of the offense and if any of the following apply:

1. The person charged, at the time of the alleged offense, is subject to the terms of a protection order of consent agreement approved pursuant to Revised Code Sections 2919.26 or 3113.31.
2. The person charged has previously been convicted of or plead guilty to a violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 2919.25, 2919.27, 2929.26, 2907.07, 11.12 or 2911.21 or any form of a Municipal ordinance or law of this or any other State of the United States that is substantially similar to any of those exceptions.
3. The arresting officer indicates in the police report or other documentation accompanying the complaint that any of the following were present:
 - a. The arresting officer observed the alleged victim's objective manifestations of physical harm which the arresting officer reasonably believes are a result of the alleged offense.
 - b. The arresting officer reasonably believes that the person had on the person's person at the time of the alleged offense a deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance.
 - c. The arresting officer reasonably believes that the person presented a credible threat of serious physical harm to the alleged victim or to any other person if released on bail before trial.

In these instances the defendant shall be required to appear before the court for setting of bail. The court shall consider those factors listed in Division B of Revised Code Section 2919.251 when setting bail. The appearance requirement may only be waived by a Judge and in such instances bail shall be set by the Judge. IN this event, a condition of bond shall be that the defendant have no contact, direct or indirect, with the alleged victim and shall not enter upon the residence of the alleged victim.

FELONY OFFENSES AND OTHER OFFENSES OF VIOLENCE

Pursuant to Revised Code Section 2917.23, in situation of assault, menacing, stalking, or to any alleged violation of Section 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13 where the victim of the offense is a peace officer, or any felony violation, the bail-bond schedule shall not apply. In such cases, bail shall only be set by the Judge.

Bonding cases not provided for in this schedule may be set in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 2937.23. This order is subject to Criminal Rule 46 of the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure and to al provision of the Ohio Revised Code, as well as the Court's local rules and provisions concerning mandatory court appearances. In the event any local rule conflicts with any provision of the Ohio Revised Code or the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure, then the Revised Code or Criminal Rules shall control.

CASH BOND

If an Own Recognizance bond is deemed inappropriate, upon consideration of the above factors, cash bond shall be set according to the bond schedule established herein, unless deviated from by the court or unless bail is required to be set by a Judge.

Any deviation from the bond schedule by the Clerk of Courts, charging officer, or county jail, must be approved in advance by the Court on an individual case by case basis. In any situation where bond is set above the schedule without court approval, the officer must appear at the defendant's next court hearing.

ACCEPTANCE OF BOND ON BAILABLE OFFENSES

In cases where bail is permitted by this rule, and is not otherwise prohibited by the Ohio Revised Code, and no Judge is readily available, the Clerk of Courts may fix the amount of bail in accordance with the above referenced bail schedule. If the Clerk of Courts office is open, bail shall be paid at said office.

If the Clerk of Courts office is closed the Putnam County Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or police officer having custody of the person charged may fix the amount of bail in accordance with the schedule set forth herein and accept payment of the same. Bail shall only be paid in the County Courthouse or at the County Jail. Both the Jail and Clerk staff shall accept credit cards as a form of bail payments. (Additional percentage as charged by Credit Card Company may apply.)

RULE 20

MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS

The Putnam County Sheriff shall incarcerate all defendants arrested upon a warrant from this court if the arrest occurs as follows:

1. PU 1 – Nationwide – all felonies.
2. PU 2 – Statewide – all felonies and M-1 offense.
3. PU 3 – Within 100 miles – all felonies and M-1 through M-4 offenses.
4. PU 4 – Adjacent Counties – all felonies, M-1 through M-4 and MM offenses.
5. PU 5 – County of Warrant only – all cases.

In the event an arrest has been made upon a warrant outside the scope of this rule, the Sheriff will consult with the Court as to the feasibility of a pick-up and conveyance order for said defendant.

RULE 21

WILDLIFE AND WATERCRAFT BOND/WAIVERS

A person charged with a minor, 3rd or 4th degree misdemeanor violate of Chapter 1531, 1533, or 1547 of the Ohio Revised Code may post the following bond amounts. If the defendant waives appearance, the bond shall be forfeited and no warrant shall be issued. The charging officer, however, has the discretion to require the defendant's appearance at arraignment by indicating so on the defendant's citation or summons.

Degree of Offense	Bond (Includes Court Costs)
Minor Misdemeanor	\$100
4 th Degree Misdemeanor	\$200
3 rd Degree Misdemeanor	\$300

RULE 22

RULES FOR THE REGULATION OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY JAIL

Court will provide copy of this rule upon request.

RULE 23

COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL

All duly registered Ohio Attorneys, in private practice in the State of Ohio, with the exception of the Prosecuting Attorney, their assistants and partners or associated in private practice with them, and except for any others excluded by Rule or Statute, may request to be entered on the list of counsel available to represent indigent defendants. Attorneys requesting to be placed on the list for appointments must meet requirements set forth in Ohio Admin Code 120-1-10 and all other requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and/or the Ohio Administrative Code with regards to the case assigned. By accepting the appointment, counsel is representing to the Court that all such requirements have been met and that he/she is eligible to receive the assignment. To be included on the appointment list, Counsel shall submit to the Court a written request, and include a list of their educational qualifications and proof of bar admission.

Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Ohio Rules of Superintendence, appointments shall be made to ensure an equitable distribution of cases to those who qualify from the appointment list. A rotary system shall be used to assign counsel from a list of those qualified. However, if the interest of justice requires, the Court may appoint a specific attorney whose expertise or experience is particularly well suited to a given case. Appointments will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure an equitable distribution of cases, and adjustments made to future appointments to attempt an as equal as possible distribution over each calendar year. However, persons on a list maintained by the Court are not assured a substantially equal number of appointments. No person is granted a legal right or claim by virtue of this rule.

The Court will maintain separate lists of qualified appointees based upon information provided by counsel seeking appointment. Counsel shall be responsible for proving verification and updates of qualifications.

Current qualifications are as follows:

CHARGE:

1) Non- OVI Misdemeanors

REQUIREMENTS:

6 Hour CLE on criminal practice and procedure,
or
Successful completion of clinical education program on criminal defense,
or
1 year experience as Attorney

2) OVI-Misdemeanor

Completion of 6 Hour CLE focused on OVI practice and procedures.

3) Felony

within 2 years have completed 12 Hours CLE in criminal practice and procedure and have one year of criminal law experience as an attorney. **Felony OVI requires a 6 hour CLE on OVI practice and procedure.*

*additional qualifications for acceptance of Felony 1-2 and 3 degrees are found in OAC 120-1-10.

In the event Counsel's qualifications change or they wish to be removed from the list, Counsel shall notify the Court in writing.

Compensation:

Assigned Counsel shall receive compensation for professional services rendered and shall be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with Board of Commissioners of Putnam County resolution Journal 45 page 309-310, and as required by Ohio Law. Within thirty (30) days following the last date of service to the defendant, counsel shall submit an itemized statement in duplicate, for services rendered and expenses incurred. These expenses shall be submitted on the appropriate form as required by the State Defender's office. **Unless approved by the Court, and for good cause, no payment will be made on any statement, bill or request for reimbursement made after this 30 day period.**

The Court will review and consider the statement and shall determine the amount of compensation due, in the amount of the hourly rate approved by the Board of County Commissioners, Putnam County, Ohio. In the event investigators or other expert witnesses are allowed by the Court, the expense for the same shall be filed with appointed Counsel's application and made a part of counsel's expense.

RULE 24

CASE MANAGEMENT RULE

This local rule is to address the case flow management requirement of Municipal and County Courts and to reduce to written rule the court's practice and administrative orders.

Law Enforcement shall file citation documentation within seventy-two (72) hours of issuance of citation unless good cause is shown and such citations shall be set for arraignment within ten (10) days from the date of service of citation or summons.

Continuance of arraignments shall be limited to seven (7) days from the scheduled date of appearance when requested by the Defendant unless accompanied by written plea, appearance of counsel, satisfactory bond, time waiver and proof of insurance where applicable. A defendant may be granted on continuance of seven (7) days after receiving the assigned date of the scheduled court appearance for arraignment. This initial continuance may be granted by the Clerk when a request is made in person or by phone. The Clerk shall immediately assign the defendant a new court date within seven (7) days or original hearing date. No continuance may be granted on any citation alleging violence to another person unless approved by the Court.

All cases, other than Small claims, Forcible Entry and Detainer and Minor Misdemeanors shall be set for pre-trial conference no later than three (3) weeks after arraignment or thirty (30) days after last responsive pleading.

Failure of a party or counsel to respond to a court request within fifteen (15) days may result in dismissal or contempt of court sanctions.

RULE 25

JURY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

Court will provide copy of this rule upon request.

RULE 26

COURT SECURITY

To assure the Court facilities are secure for all those who visit and work at the Court and pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence for the Putnam County Municipal Court, Rule 9, the Court establishes the following:

The Court has appointed a Local Court Security Advisory committee consisting of one representative of each of the following groups: judges, other court staff, law enforcement responsible for court security, and individuals as deemed appropriate by the Court.

The local Court Security Advisory Committee shall recommend a security plan which shall establish written directives for the purpose of ensuring security within the court while maintaining accessibility to the community and be incorporated into Local Rule.

COURT SECURITY OFFICERS

At the request of the Presiding Judge, uniformed, armed law enforcement officers, certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council, shall be assigned in sufficient numbers to court security to insure the security of the court room, the judge's chambers, the court administrator's office, the jury room, the court's conference rooms and the areas immediately adjacent thereto.

PERSONS SUBJECT TO SECURITY SCREENING

At the request of the Presiding Judge, all persons entering the court room, the judge's chambers, the court administrator's office, the jury room, the court's conference rooms and areas immediately adjacent thereto shall be subject to security screening, including a search of their persons and any brief cases, parcels and packages in their possession.

WEAPONS

No weapons shall be permitted in the court room, the judge's chambers, the court administrator's office, the jury room, the court's conference rooms and areas immediately adjacent thereto, except those carried by law enforcement officers, certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council, while on duty and acting within the scope of their employment.

PRISONER TRANSPORT

Incarcerated defendants in criminal cases shall be accompanied at all times while in the Courthouse by a Deputy Sheriff, Jailer, or a local police officer.

DURESS ALARMS

The Court Room, Judge's Chambers and the Clerk's office shall be equipped with duress alarms connected to a central monitoring station. The duress alarms shall be tested on a monthly basis.

RULE 27

FACSIMILE FILINGS

The filing of pleadings and other papers may be made by electronic means. Any signature on electronically transmitted pleading or papers shall be considered that of the attorney or party it purports to represent for all court purposes. If it is established that the pleadings or papers were transmitted without authority, the Court shall order the filing stricken.

Attorneys shall limit requests for facsimile transmission to filings of an emergency or time-critical nature. This type of transmission is only to be used in appropriate circumstances. The court reserved the right to revoke this privilege from any attorney who appears to be abusing the privilege as documented on the fax log maintained by the Clerk of Courts.

All pleadings except an original complaint, or other papers may be filed with the Clerk by facsimile transmission subject to the following provisions:

- A.** A fax document will be accepted as original and the signature accepted as original consistent with Civil Rule 5(E) except in the filing of a new case. The sending party must supply the clerk with appropriate copies with a notation of "Previously Faxed Document" prescribed by these rules for service on parties within three business days from the date of the transmission. It shall not be the responsibility of the clerk to make copies of the fax transmission for service on interested parties.
- B.** The attorney must telephone the Clerk's office if a precept of any nature is being faxed (subpoena, service of summons, reissued service request, etc.).
- C.** Documents must be no longer than ten (10) pages.

- D. The attorney must transmit the item to a phone number specified by the Clerk. Such time will ordinarily be within the normal business hours.
- E. The attorney must use a cover sheet when making transmissions and provide all required information. Fax transmissions without a cover sheet will not be accepted for filing. Papers for no more than one case can be transmitted with a given cover sheet.
- F. Any facsimile copy filed pursuant to this rule shall conform to the requirements of Civil Rules 10 and 11 in both form and substance, and shall be preceded in transmission by a cover page with includes the following information:
 - 1. Name and forwarding attorney.
 - 2. Address of forwarding attorney.
 - 3. Ohio Supreme court registration number of attorney.
 - 4. Telephone number of attorney.
 - 5. Facsimile telephone number of attorney.
 - 6. Date and time of facsimile initiation.
 - 7. Number of pages in document being forwarded.
- G. Court costs are three dollars (\$3.00) per transmission, plus one dollar (\$1.00) per page. All costs are on both incoming and outgoing documents.

**RULE 28
CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM**

The Board of Putnam County Commissioners approved a resolution on September 15, 2004 to enter into an agreement with Lima-Allen County Crime Stoppers Program.

Said resolution, recorded in Commissioners Journal 81, pages 337 and 338, states that the Putnam County Municipal Court and Putnam County Common Pleas Court will impose the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) as costs in any case in which a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to any offense other than a traffic offense pursuant to Section 9.92(D) of the Ohio Revised Code, effective October 1, 2004.

The Board of County Commissioners does hereby authorize Putnam County Municipal Court and Putnam County Common Pleas Court, effective November 1, 2004 to impose the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) as costs in any case in which a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to any offense other than a traffic offense pursuant to Section 9.92(D) of the Ohio Revised Code.

This one dollar (\$1.00) additional court costs is in addition to any other court costs that the court is required by law to impose upon the offender, and the court shall impose the one dollar (\$1.00) additional court costs as long as the agreement of affiliation is in effect, but the court, in the court's discretion, may remit this one dollar (\$1.00) additional court costs to the offender.

The Clerk of each court shall transmit all monies collected during a month on or before the twentieth day of the following month to the Lima-Allen County Crime Stoppers, P. O. Box 582, Lima, Ohio 45802.

**RULE 29
MEDIATION**

(1) Uniform Mediation Act and Definitions

The R.C. 2710 "Uniform Mediation Act" (UMA), including all definitions found in R.C. 2710.01, are incorporated by reference and adopted by this court through this local rule.

(2) Cases Eligible for Mediation

- (a) General. The court has discretion to encourage parties to use mediation in any civil action filed in this court. A case may be submitted to mediation as provided in this rule. The court may issue an order on its own motion, upon the motion of counsel, upon the request of a party, or upon referral by the mediator.
- (b) Exceptions. Mediation is prohibited in the following:
 - (i) As an alternative to the prosecution or adjudication of domestic violence;
 - (ii) In determining whether to grant, modify, or terminate a protection order;
 - (iii) In determining the terms and conditions of a protection order;
 - (iv) In determining the penalty for violation of a protection order.
- (c) Nothing in this division shall prohibit the use of mediation in a subsequent divorce or custody case, even though that case may result in the termination of the provisions of a protection order; or in a juvenile court delinquency case, even though the case involves juvenile-perpetrated domestic violence.

(3) Confidentiality

Except as provided in sections 121.22 and 149.43 of the Revised Code, mediation communications are confidential to the extent agreed by the parties or provided by other sections of the Revised Code or rules adopted under any section of the Revised Code. Parties desiring confidentiality of mediation communications shall advise the mediator as soon as practical and all mediation participants shall execute any confidentiality agreement prior to the start of mediation.

By participating in mediation, a nonparty participant, as defined by R.C. 2710.01(D), submits to the Court's jurisdiction to the extent necessary for enforcement of this rule. Any nonparty participant shall have the rights and duties under this rule as are attributed to parties, except that no evidence privilege shall be expanded.

Referral to Resources

The court administrator shall maintain resources for mediation parties, including victims and suspected victims of domestic violence, encouraging appropriate referrals to legal counsel and other support services such as Children Services, domestic violence prevention, counseling, substance abuse, and mental health services.

RULE 30

PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Putnam County Municipal Court Diversion Program is designed as an option for the first-time defendant charged with underage possession/consumption of an alcoholic beverage under Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.69

Upon agreement of the State of Ohio and a defendant and/or their attorney to participate in the Diversion Program, and approval by the Court, the program shall be in effect. The terms of the program are those set forth by the Court. If the program is successfully completed the matter shall be dismissed at defendant's cost.

If the defendant does not complete the Diversion Program he/she will appear in court for further disposition.

Rule 31

Personal and Private Information

The following information is deemed personal and private and may not be included in a public record:

1. Social Security number
2. Full financial account number (the last four digits of an account number may be listed).
3. Any other information deemed personal and private by any other federal or state statute, regulation, executive order or court ruling.

It is the responsibility of the filing party and counsel to remove personal and private information, from a document filed with the Clerk of Court's office (see Superintendent Rule 45 (D)). The responsibility of the filing party and counsel to remove personal and private information extends to, and includes, exhibits and addenda attached to filings, such as preliminary and final judicial reports, which itemize state tax liens, that use social security numbers as case number; medical records; and personal information such as may be found under R.C. 2907, "Sex Offenses".

The Clerk of Courts and Deputy Clerks have no responsibility for the removal of any personal and private information filed in a public document in the Putnam County Clerk of Courts office.

Any personal and private information contained in documents filed prior to the implementation of this rule is considered public. Any personal and private information in records or transcripts transmitted to this court from another Court is considered public. A party or an attorney in a case, or any other person whose personal and private information is contained in the public records of this Court may petition the court for the removal of personal and private information and, if the request is granted, the personal and private information will be redacted.

All public documents filed with the Clerk of Courts office are subject to record retention processes of imaging and microfilming. Case documentation listing all entries filed in the case and the date of filing shall be placed on the Clerk of Court's website for viewing.

Putnam County Municipal Court

Judge Chad C. Niese

245 E. Main St., Suite 303, Ottawa, Ohio

Phone: 419-523-8735

Clerk's Office: 419-523-3110

Court Schedule

Monday	Criminal and Traffic 9:00 am 10:00 am -12:00 pm 1:00 pm 2:00 pm. – 4:30 pm.	Jail Only Arraignments Traffic/Criminal Docket Arraignments (In-person) Traffic/Criminal Docket
Tuesday	Criminal and Traffic 9:00 am 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Arraignments (both Jail and In-person) Traffic/Criminal Docket Traffic/Criminal Docket
Wednesday	Civil, Small Claims, Criminal and Traffic 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am – 12:00pm 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Jail Only Arraignment Payment Plan Hearings Civil/Small Claims Docket Civil Docket
Thursday	Criminal and Traffic 9:00 am 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Arraignments (both Jail and In-person) Traffic/Criminal Docket Traffic/Criminal Docket
Friday	Criminal and Traffic 9:00 am 9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Arraignments (Jail Only) Jury Trials / Over Flow Cases

**PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT
JUDGE CHAD C. NIESE**

**245 E MAIN ST, SUITE 303, OTTAWA, OH 45875
419-523-8725**

putnamcountycourtsohio.com

Effective 2/1/2025

FILING FEES AND COST

Certificate of Judgment	\$20.00
Certification	\$2.00
Civil Case Deposit (Additional Defendants \$20.00)	\$105.00
Copies	\$0.10
Counter Claim – Civil	\$105.00
Counter Claim – Small Claims	\$60.00
Debtor’s Exam	\$40.00
Debtor’s Questionnaire	\$30.00
Expungement/Sealing Fee	\$100.00
Forcible Detention and Detainer (Additional Defendants \$25.00)	\$210.00
Garnishment - Wage	\$110.00
Garnishment - Bank Attachment (plus \$1.00 to financial institution)	\$110.00
Jury Demand Deposit – Civil	\$200.00
Notary	\$1.00
Pre-Sentence Investigation	\$25.00
Probation Supervision (initial fee)	\$50.00
Publication Deposit	\$400.00
Removal of Mobile Home Deposit – Civil	\$500.00
Reopen Case Fee – Traffic/Criminal	\$50.00
Reopen Civil Case (Additional Defendants \$20.00)	\$95.00
Reopen Small Claims Case (Additional Defendants \$8.50)	\$50.00
Revival of Judgment	\$50.00
Small Claims Case Deposit (Additional Defendants \$8.50)	\$60.00
Subpoena Fee – Civil/Small Claims	\$25.00
Trusteeship	\$105.00
Writ of Execution	\$150.00
Writ of Restitution	\$150.00

BOND/WAIVER SCHEDULE

PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

245 E MAIN ST, SUITE 303, OTTAWA, OH 45875
419-523-8725

putnamcountycourtsohio.com

Effective 2/1/2025

If waiving appearance, payment of the listed amount must be made to the Putnam County Municipal Court by the court date given on ticket. Payment can be made in person at the Clerk of Courts office, by mail or electronically online. Only certified checks or money orders are accepted. Payment can be made online at putnamcountycourtsohio.com. There is a 3.0% service charge (\$1.00 minimum charge) applied to all payments when using credit or debit card.

The Clerk's office is open Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. When mailing a ticket and payment, sign wavier on back of ticket, attach certified check or money order made out to Putnam County Municipal Court to the address listed above.

ORC/ Village ORD	Violation	Bond/Waiver
4513.263	Seat Belt -- Driver	\$115.00
	Passenger	\$105.00
4511.78	Child Restraint	\$120.00
5577.05	Over-length	\$120.00
5577.04	Over-load	Per-Statute
4511.21	Speed	
	0-10 MPH Over Posted Limit	\$125.00
	11-15 MPH Over Posted Limit	\$135.00
	16-20 MPH Over Posted Limit	\$145.00
	21-25 MPH Over Posted Limit	\$165.00
	26 MPH & Over Posted Limit	\$185.00
4511.21	Assured Clear Distance (with proof of insurance)	\$135.00
4503.21	Display of License Plates	\$135.00
4511.12	Failure to Obey Traffic Device	\$135.00
4511.202	Failure to Control (with proof of insurance)	\$145.00
4511.25	Lanes of Traffic	\$135.00
4511.34	Following Too Close	\$135.00
4511.27 & 30	Improper Passing\Turning	\$135.00
4511.31 & 35	Lane Violation	\$135.00
4511.36 & 40	Improper Turns/Signaling	\$135.00
4511.41 - 46	Failure to Yield	\$135.00
4511.71	Driving on Closed Roadway	\$135.00
4511.712	Obstruction Passage of another Vehicle	\$135.00
4511.72 & 73	Following Emergency Vehicle	\$145.00
4511.82	Littering	\$195.00
4513 et al.	Equipment Violations (excluding seatbelt)	\$135.00
955.21	Failure to Register Dog (upon proof of registration)	\$135.00
955.22	Dogs running at large (minor misd. only)	\$135.00
4513.241	Window Tint	\$135.00
Village Code	Loud Music	\$145.00
Village Code	Rapid Acceleration	\$135.00
2917.11	Disorderly Conduct	\$145.00
4301.62	Open Container	\$145.00
4510.12	Operating W/O Valid Driver License (minor misd. only)	\$145.00
4510.12	No Operators License (unclassified misdemeanor)	\$235.00
4510.111	Driving under Suspension (unclassified misdemeanor)	\$235.00
4510.16	Driving under FRA Susp/Cancellation/Nonpayment (uncl-misd)	\$235.00
4510.21	Failure to Reinstate License (unclassified misdemeanor)	\$235.00
4511.991	Distracted Driving.	\$185.00
	*If Defendant wishes to avoid the additional \$100 fine, Defendant must appear and present the Court with proof of completion of an approved distracted driving safety course (www.drivertraining.ohio.gov)	
4511.204(A)	Texting While Driving	\$235.00
	*If Defendant wishes to avoid the additional \$150 fine and 2 points, Defendant must appear and present the Court with proof of completion of an approved distracted driving safety course (www.drivertraining.ohio.gov)	
Traffic	Any other minor misdemeanor traffic offense, unless appearance required by statute	\$145.00
Criminal	Any other minor misdemeanor criminal offense	\$145.00

Wildlife and Watercraft Bond/Waivers

A person charged with a minor 3rd or 4th Degree Misdemeanor violation of Chapter 1531, 1533 or 1547 of the O.R.C. may post the following bond amounts. If the defendant fails to appear, the bond shall be forfeited and no warrant issued. The charging officer, however, has the discretion to require the defendant's appearance at arraignment by indicating so on the defendant's citation of summons. The bond/waiver includes court costs.

Degree of Offense	Bond/Waiver
Minor Misdemeanor	\$110.00
4 th Degree Misdemeanor	\$210.00
3 rd Degree Misdemeanor	\$310.00

**PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT
CONDITIONS OF PROBATION**

Defendant

Case No.

Address

Social Security Number

City, State, Zip Code

Violation

Phone

Employment

In accordance with authority by the Ohio Probation Law, you have been placed on probation on this date _____, for a period of _____ months/years before Judge _____, Putnam County Municipal Court.

It is the ORDER OF THE Court that you shall comply with the following general and special conditions of probation.

- A. Refrain from the violation of any village ordinances, state and federal laws.
- B. Keep good company and do not associate with another probationer or parolee.
- C. Keep good hours and stay away from all undesirable places, including establishments that serve alcoholic beverages.
- D. Seek and maintain employment at a lawful occupation.
- E. Do not leave the country where you reside for more than 24 hours without prior approval of the probation officer. Notify your probation officer if you intend to change your address.
- F. Report promptly on the dates set forth. If you are unable to attend your appointment, notify the probation office at once.
- G. Report promptly on the dates set forth. If you are unable to attend your appointment, notify the probation office at once.
- H. You shall not operate a motor vehicle without a valid Ohio Operator's License. Any vehicles owned or operated by you must be covered by insurance and proof of insurance must be provided.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Curfew of _____ P.M. until sunrise, except during employment.
2. Pay on Fines and Costs monthly in the amount of \$ _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

You are hereby advised that under the law, the Court may at any time revoke probation for cause, modify the conditions of probation, and reduce or extend the period of probation. You are subject to arrest by the probation office without a warrant.

You are subject to unannounced alcohol or drug testing, and to unannounced home visits.

The Court has placed you on probation believing that you will sincerely try to obey and live up to the conditions of your probation. Follow the probation officer's instructions and advice. The Probation Law gives him the authority to instruct and advise you regarding recreational, social and financial matters.

Defendant's Signature

Probation Officer

Date

**IN THE PUTNAM COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT
PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO**

WORK RELEASE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Upon the approval of the sentencing Judge in Putnam County, Ohio, any prisoner sentenced to a county jail shall be permitted to participate in a work-release program.
2. The Putnam County sheriff shall be appointed to serve as the administrator of the work-release program as set forth herein, such position being necessary and proper, pursuant to Section 5147.28 et. seq. of the Ohio Revised Code and shall be designated as Work-Release Administrator.
3. The Work-Release Administrator shall collect twenty dollars (\$20) per day for each day worked.
4. Any prisoner in the Putnam County Jail, who has been sentenced to a jail term, which sentence is not a non-suspendable sentence, may be eligible for the work-release program under the following terms and conditions:
 - A. Any prisoner under the work-release program shall be permitted to leave the jail thirty (30) minutes before the time he is required to report to this job and said prisoner shall report back to the jail within thirty (30) minutes after the completion of his or her work for that day, subject to Court Order in each particular case concerning distance to and from work and subject to the necessity of obtaining meals both before, after, and during said employment.
 - B. Each prisoner on the work-release program shall provide his or her own transportation to and from his or her employment.
 - C. A prisoner shall not be permitted to work any voluntary overtime hours without prior Court approval.
 - D. Any prisoner on the work-release program who fails to abide by the rules and regulations of such program shall be discontinued on such program and remanded to the County Jail until a hearing is had on such violation and said prisoner shall not be reinstated except by the sentence of the Court. Such hearing will be requested by the prisoner.
 - E. Any prisoner who desires to become eligible to participate in the Putnam County work-release program shall subscribe to a separate and independent Work-Release Agreement, such agreement follows.

WORK RELEASE RULES, REGULATIONS AND AGREEMENT

_____ 1. Upon application and the approval by the sentencing Judge in Putnam County, Ohio an inmate sentenced to the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility shall be permitted to participate in a work-release program, so long as they can comply with program rules and requirements.

_____ 2. The Putnam County Sheriff or designee shall be appointed to serve as the administrator of the work-release program as set forth herein, such position being necessary and proper, pursuant to Section 5147.28 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code and shall be designated as Work-Release Administrator.

_____ 3. The inmate sentenced through a Putnam County Court agrees to pay an advanced fee of two-hundred dollars (\$200.00), via a money order to cover cost of program administration, to be accepted into the work-release program. This fee is separate from the per diem fee and any other fee. Also, inmate is to submit his/her pay check stub or direct deposit form to the work-release coordinator at the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility as soon as it is received from the employer. The predetermined daily fee set in accordance with the attached schedule will be calculated for work-release fees. Additionally, any other court costs, fines, and restitution owed to the court will be deducted and any remaining balance returned to the inmate. If inmate's paycheck is not processed through the program, the inmate will submit a money order for the amount due to the jail immediately. The Sheriff's Office is to notify the Court of any work-release violations. Any time the work-release program is violated by the inmate, such as not reporting for work, not having the proper documents submitted for overtime work, or not submitting their pay check stub or direct deposit form to the coordinator for deposit. The privilege of work-release may be terminated by the Court. Inmates held in the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility for another jurisdiction and granted work release by a sentencing judge of said jurisdiction, will pay an advanced fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100), via a money order deposited to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. A predetermined per diem fee will be assessed for work release fees.

_____ 4. As part of the application, and before any inmate may be accepted into the work release program, the inmate shall provide a copy of his/her most recent paystub (or a letter from his/her employer) indicating his/her current hourly wage or weekly income. This document shall be used to determine the fee under 5A below. Fee shall be based upon gross income indicated in these documents and number of dependents the inmate is supporting.

_____ 5. As part of the application, and before an inmate may be accepted into the work release program, the inmate shall provide a tax return and/or child support court order evidencing the dependents of the inmate. This document shall also be used to determine the fee under 5A below. Upon receipt of his/her paycheck/direct deposit, each inmate will immediately produce a copy of said paycheck deductions stub or direct deposit information to the Work-Release Coordinator at the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. Upon acceptance of said documents, the Work-Release Coordinator will complete calculations and forward

all necessary items to the Putnam County Clerk of Courts no later than Monday of the following week. The net pay of each inmate will be disbursed by the Clerk of Courts as follows:

_____ A. Each inmate shall be assessed a daily fee based upon the attached schedule. The daily fee in this case is \$ _____. Seven times this fee amount shall be paid to the Putnam County Sheriff Office for payment for the cost of boarding the inmate per week. This amount shall be paid in advance each week. The initial \$200.00 advanced fee, shall be applied to the inmates first week of participation in the program.

The daily fee may be adjusted during participation based upon changes in income or dependents. Any changes of dependents or income must be brought to jail administrator's attention by inmate.

_____ B. Any amount remaining shall be disbursed as following:

_____ 1. If the inmate claims zero dependents, twenty-five per cent (25%) of the remaining money shall be paid to the Putnam County Clerk of Courts to apply to any unpaid court costs, fines, and restitution. If all court costs, fines, and restitution money owed is paid to the court, the total amount remaining after the work release fees are calculated will be paid to the inmate, after payment of any garnishments or attachments legally owed.

_____ 2. If the inmate has dependent children, twenty per cent (20%) of the remaining money shall be paid to the Putnam County Clerk of Courts to apply on any unpaid court costs, fines, and restitution. If all court costs, fines, and restitution money owed has been paid to the court, the total amount remaining after the work release fees are calculated will be paid to the inmate, after payment of any garnishments or attachments legally owed.

_____ 3. An inmate held in the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility for another jurisdiction and granted work release by the sentencing judge of said jurisdiction, will be subject to section 5A of this agreement. Payment is to be submitted via money order to the Work Release Coordinator.

_____ 4. The costs of Four Dollars fifty cents (\$4.50) per test for drug testing supplies used when the inmate returns to the jail facility may be assessed to any and all work release program inmates and added to the calculated fees that are due.

____ 6. Any inmate in the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility who has been sentenced to incarceration, who's sentencing judge grants work release privileges as documented in a Judgement Entry, may be eligible for the work-release program, under the following conditions:

____ A. Any inmate under the work-release program shall be permitted to leave the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility thirty (30) minutes before the time he/she is required to report to their job and said inmate shall report back to the Adult Detention Facility within thirty (30) minutes after the completion of his/her work for that day. This stipulation is subject to Court Order in each particular case concerning distance to and from work and subject to necessity of obtaining meals both before, after, and during said employment.

____ B. In situations where employment requires travel throughout the work hours, the inmate must contact the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility and report when departing from one location and then contact the facility again when arriving at another. A physical address must be provided.

____ C. Each inmate on the work-release program shall provide his/her own transportation to and from their employment. Inmate will provide his/her license and a copy will be kept on file.

Make: _____ Model: _____ License
Plate: _____

Color: _____ State of Plates: _____ Proof of
Insurance: _____

____ D. Unless approved by the sentencing Judge, employment is limited to Putnam or any contiguous county.

____ E. Any inmate on the work-release program who fails to abide by the rules and regulations of such program shall be discontinued on such program and remanded to the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility until a hearing is had regarding the violation. Said inmate shall not be reinstated except by the ruling of the Court.

____ F. The inmate agrees that he/she will under no circumstances drink alcoholic beverages or consume any controlled substances during the period of his/her participation in the work-release program.

____ G. The inmate will not leave his/her place of employment for any purpose other than to return to the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility, subject to the Order of the Court.

____H. The inmate understands and agrees that he/she will make an accurate record of the _____ time he/she enters and departs from the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility.

____I. The inmate understands and agrees that while outside the Putnam County Adult _____ Detention Facility, he/she will not call, text, email, or visit with any unauthorized or _____ unapproved individual, nor will the inmate post messages/photos or utilize social media.

____J. Unless authorized, additional time by the sentencing Court, all work release inmates will be limited to a 60-hour workweek, including travel time six (6) days a week. Unless _____ authorized additional time by sentencing Court, inmates are not allowed to work more than one _____ job.

____K. The inmate understands and agrees that while outside the Putnam County Adult _____ Detention Facility he/she will not send or receive mail.

____L. The inmate understands and agrees that *while outside the Putnam County Adult _____ Detention Facility that* he/she is responsible for maintaining nutritional needs at their own _____ expense and via means of their own arrangements. Consumable items must be purchased and entirely consumed before returning inside of the facility. Above-mentioned items must be _____ obtained without an inmate entering the interior of any establishments.

____M. The inmate understands and agrees that he/she will not carry mail or packages into _____ or out of the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility without the specific approval of the Jail Administrator.

____N. The inmate understands that if he/she escapes or walks off the job or fails to return as _____ required, they may be charged with escape.

____O. The inmate shall furnish a faxed/emailed employment schedule prior to being released for work purposes as well as when working mandatory overtime.

____P. While participating in work-release the inmate may be tested for alcohol and/or drug consumption each time he/she returns to the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility. The inmate may be charged \$4.50 per test, which will be assessed with work-release fees.

____Q. The inmate understands that if he/she is found in violation of any rules noted within the Inmate Handbook, work release privileges may be suspended or revoked.

____R. The inmate agrees to comply with all terms of this document.

____7. The inmate agrees to hold the County of Putnam, the Sheriff as Work-Release Administrator, and any other County employee or official harmless for any injuries or damages which the inmate might suffer while outside of the Putnam County Adult Detention Facility and while participating in the work-release program.

____8. The inmate agrees to comply with all terms of this document.

I have read, understand and agree to all of the above terms and conditions. A copy has been received for my own record:

Inmate signature

Date

Witness

Witness

Administrator of Work-Release Program

WORK RELEASE – DAILY FEE SCHEDULE

Average Weekly Income

Number of Dependents	0	1	2	3	≥ 4
≥ \$1153.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$20.00
\$961.00-\$1152.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
\$769.00-\$960.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
\$576.00-\$768.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
\$384.00-\$575.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
≤ \$3843.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00