

TITLE 3

MUNICIPAL COURT

CHAPTER

1. CITY JUDGE.
2. COURT ADMINISTRATION.
3. WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS.
4. BONDS AND APPEALS.

CHAPTER 1

CITY JUDGE

SECTION

- 3-101. City judge.
- 3-102. Jurisdiction.

3-101. City judge. The officer designated by the charter to handle judicial matters within the city shall preside over the city court and shall be known as the city judge.

3-102. Jurisdiction. The city judge shall have the authority to try persons charged with the violation of municipal ordinances, and to punish persons convicted of such violations by levying a civil penalty under the general penalty provision of this code.

CHAPTER 2

COURT ADMINISTRATION

SECTION

3-201. Municipal court.

3-201. Municipal court. Pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 6-21-501, there shall be a city court presided over by an appointed judge. The penalty for violation of a municipal offense shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).

CHAPTER 3

WARRANTS, SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS

SECTION

3-301. Issuance of summonses.

3-302. Issuance of subpoenas.

3-301. Issuance of summonses. When a complaint of an alleged ordinance violation is made to the city judge, the judge may, in his discretion, issue a summons ordering the alleged offender personally to appear before the city court at a time specified therein to answer to the charges against him. The summons shall contain a brief description of the offense charged but need not set out verbatim the provisions of the municipal code or ordinance alleged to have been violated. Upon failure of any person to appear before the city court as commanded in a summons lawfully served on him, the cause may be proceeded with ex parte, and the judgment of the court shall be valid and binding subject to the defendant's right of appeal.

3-302. Issuance of subpoenas. The city judge may subpoena as witnesses all persons whose testimony he believes will be relevant and material to matters coming before his court, and it shall be unlawful for any person lawfully served with such a subpoena to fail or neglect to comply therewith.

CHAPTER 4

BONDS AND APPEALS

SECTION

3-401. Appeals.

3-402. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms.

3-401. Appeals. Any person dissatisfied with any judgment of the city court against him may, within ten (10) days¹ thereafter, Sundays exclusive, appeal to the circuit court of the county upon giving bond.

"Person," as used in this section includes, but is not limited to, a natural person, corporation, business entity or the municipality.

3-402. Bond amounts, conditions, and forms. (1) Appeal bond. An appeal bond in any case shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for such person's appearance and the faithful prosecution of the appeal.

(2) Pauper's oath. A bond is not required provided the defendant/appellant:

(a) Files the following oath of poverty:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear under penalties of perjury, that owing to my poverty, I am not able to bear the expense of the action which I am about to commence, and that I am justly entitled to the relief sought, to the best of my belief;" and

(b) Files an accompanying affidavit of indigency.

The affidavit of indigency must be sworn to by the defendant/appellant and the facts therein may be investigated.

"Person," as used in this section includes, but is not limited to, a natural person, corporation, business entity or the municipality.

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-307.