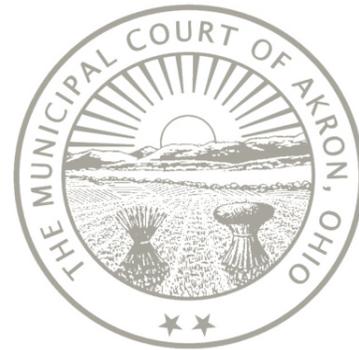


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Akron Municipal Court
Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center
217 S. High Street, Suite 713
Akron, Ohio 44308 USA
Contact: Montrella Jackson, Court Administrator
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PUBLIC NOTICE: **Amendments to the Local Rules for the Akron Municipal Court**

(Akron, Ohio, April 15, 2022) The Akron Municipal Court hereby issues public notice that the Court proposes **Local Rule of Court 36.6 Specialized Dockets: Restore Individual Self Empowerment (RISE)**. The proposed rule is attached and also available at <http://www.akronmunicipalcourt.org>.

The Akron Municipal Court will accept public comments until April 29, 2022. You may submit comments, in writing, on the proposed rule by Friday, April 29, 2022 to: Montrella S. Jackson, Esq., Court Administrator, Akron Municipal Court, 217 South High Street Suite 713, Akron Ohio 44308 or court@akronohio.gov. Please include your full name, email and mailing address in any comments submitted by electronic mail.

The Akron Municipal Court serves the cities of Akron and Fairlawn; the townships of Bath, Richfield and Springfield; the Villages of Lakemore and Richfield; and that part of Mogadore in Summit County, Ohio. For more information about Akron Municipal Court services and programs, please visit <http://www.akronmunicipalcourt.org>.

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AMC Rule 36.6. Specialized Dockets: Restore Individual Self-Empowerment (RISE) Court

(A) Establishment of Akron RISE Court Program

- (1) Pursuant to Sup. R. 36.20 through 36.29, and by order of the Judges of the The Akron Municipal Court, effective April 29, 2022, the rules and guidelines of the The Akron Municipal RISE Program created in 2019 and formally adopted on January 28, 2019 are hereby modified.**
- (2) The Akron Municipal RISE Court Program will provide effective supervision and enhanced treatment services to up to seventy-five (75) misdemeanor offenders in an effort to address the needs of defendants who have been charged in the Akron Municipal Court and present with factors that may suggest being at risk for human trafficking or have a history of offenses related to human trafficking. The mission of the RISE Court is to establish an integrated approach to meet the treatment, health, and psychological needs of those defendants.**
- (3) The goals and objective of the Akron Municipal RISE Court Program are to address the myriad of issues associated with complex trauma along with helping to reframe maladaptive criminogenic thinking and behavior. The RISE Court strives to work with community partners and defendants to provide a comprehensive, coordinated treatment approach to participants who exhibit any symptoms related to complex trauma, PTSD or the secondary symptoms including: major depression, other mental health disorders, and/or drug or alcohol dependency. With this approach, RISE strives decrease criminal recidivism, jail bookings and arrests, improve public safety and improve the defendant's quality of life in the least restrictive setting.**

(B) Placement, Screening, and Case Assignment for the Akron RISE Court Program.

- (1) Individuals being considered for The RISE Court Program must be adjudicated through the Akron Municipal Court and charged with a misdemeanor offense, or under pre-sentence investigation and determined to have a need for RISE Court. Individuals may be referred to the RISE Court Program either through Intervention in Lieu of Conviction, under R.C. 2951.041; or post-conviction of a misdemeanor offense.**
- (2) Exclusionary criteria includes the following: The defendant has been convicted of a crime in which any child has been the victim of sexual violence; A violent offense. However, on occasion, a defendant who has been charged with a violent offense is referred to the RISE Program. While the Court does not condone the use of violence, the Court has observed victims of human trafficking who are charged with violent offenses as a pattern of control. The prosecutor must consult with the victim of the violent offense in compliance with Marsy's Law. All of these factors will be considered when deciding whether to accept a defendant into the RISE Program.**
- (3) All individuals shall be screened by the Akron Municipal Court Probation Department and or RISE Court Coordinator. The Akron Probation Department screening unit and or RISE Court Coordinator will review the arraignment docket each day, Monday-Friday. All eligible RISE Court cases shall be transferred to the RISE**

Court Judge prior to sentencing. Individuals found eligible and who voluntarily agree to enter the RISE Court Program will enter a plea before the RISE Court Judge. Case assignment for The Akron Municipal Court Judges will not be changed.

- (a) The RISE Court Judge will be responsible to monitor compliance by utilizing appropriate rewards and sanctions to help modify offender behavior.**
- (b) In the event a program is terminated from the program, the case shall remain with the RISE Court Judge. The RISE Court Judge will administer the re-imposition of the RISE Court participant's sentence.**

(C) Case Management

- (1) The Akron RISE Court program will work closely with all of its community partners to provide case management services in a least restrictive manner that is consistent with offender compliance and public safety and that provides the most intensive and All forms, program descriptions, handbooks and agreements shall be incorporated as part of the Akron Municipal Drug Court Program.**
- (2) The Akron RISE Court Policy and Procedure Manual, Participant Handbook, and Participation Agreement are hereby incorporated as part of the Akron Municipal RISE Court Program.**

(D) Termination from the RISE Court Program

- (1) All individuals who are unsuccessfully terminated from the Akron Municipal RISE Court program are subject to have their original suspended sentence re-imposed by The RISE Court.**
- (2) With input from the RISE Court Team, The RISE Court Judge may impose a sentence utilizing a combination of all resources available to the court including but not limited to jail, community service, house arrest, residential treatment, non-residential treatment, probation, fines, court costs, etc.**