



Ohio Revised Code

Section 1907.20 Powers and duties of county court clerk.

Effective: April 6, 2023

Legislation: House Bill 343

(A) The clerk of courts shall be the clerk of the county court, except that the board of county commissioners, with the concurrence of the county court judges, may appoint a clerk for each county court judge, who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall receive compensation as set by the board, payable in semimonthly installments from the treasury of the county. Except as otherwise provided in section 3.061 of the Revised Code, an appointed clerk, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall give bond of not less than five thousand dollars, as determined by the board of county commissioners, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the clerk's duties.

The clerks of courts of common pleas, when acting as the clerks of county courts, and upon assuming their county court duties, shall receive compensation at one-fourth the rate prescribed for the clerks of courts of common pleas as determined in accordance with the population of the county and the rates set forth in sections 325.08 and 325.18 of the Revised Code. This compensation shall be paid from the county treasury in semimonthly installments and is in addition to the annual compensation received for the performance of the duties of the clerk of a court of common pleas as provided in sections 325.08 and 325.18 of the Revised Code.

(B) The clerk of a county court shall have general powers to administer oaths, take affidavits, and issue executions upon any judgment rendered in the county court, including a judgment for unpaid costs, power to issue and sign all writs, process, subpoenas, and papers issuing out of the court, and to attach the seal of the court to them, and power to approve all bonds, sureties, recognizances, and undertakings fixed by any judge of the court or by law. The clerk shall file and safely keep all journals, records, books, and papers belonging or appertaining to the court, record its proceedings, perform all other duties that the judges of the court may prescribe, and keep a book showing all receipts and disbursements, which shall be open for public inspection at all times. The clerk may refuse to accept for filing any pleading or paper submitted for filing by a person who has been found to be a vexatious litigator under section 2323.52 of the Revised Code and who has failed to obtain leave to proceed under that section.



The clerk shall prepare and maintain a general index, a docket as prescribed by the court, which shall be furnished by the board of county commissioners, and such other records as the court, by rule, requires, all of which shall be the public records of the court. In the docket, the clerk shall enter at times of the commencement of an action, the names of the parties in full, the names of the counsel, and the nature of the proceedings. Under proper dates, the clerk shall note the filing of the complaint, issuing of summons or other process, returns, and pleadings subsequent thereto. The clerk also shall enter all reports, verdicts, orders, judgments, and proceedings of the court, clearly specifying the relief granted or orders made in each action. The court may order an extended record of any of the above to be made and entered, under the proper action heading, upon the docket at the request of any party to the case, the expense of which may be taxed as costs in the case or may be required to be prepaid by the party demanding the extended record, upon order of the court.

(C) The clerk of a county court shall receive and collect all costs, fees, fines, penalties, bail, and other moneys payable to the office or to any officer of the court and issue receipts therefor, and shall on or before the twentieth day of the month following the month in which they are collected disburse the costs, fees, fines, penalties, bail, and other moneys to the proper persons or officers and take receipts therefor. Subject to sections 307.515, 4511.19, 4511.193, and 5503.04 of the Revised Code and all other statutes that require a different distribution of fines, fines received for violations of municipal ordinances shall be paid into the treasury of the municipal corporation whose ordinance was violated, fines received for violations of township resolutions adopted pursuant to section 503.52 or 503.53 or Chapter 504. of the Revised Code shall be paid into the treasury of the township whose resolution was violated, and fines collected for the violation of state laws shall be paid into the county treasury. Moneys deposited as security for costs shall be retained pending the litigation.

The clerk shall keep a separate account of all receipts and disbursements in civil and criminal cases. The separate account shall be a permanent public record of the office. On the expiration of a clerk's term, those records shall be delivered to the clerk's successor.

The clerk shall have such other powers and duties as are prescribed by rule or order of the court.

(D) All moneys paid into a county court shall be noted on the record of the case in which they are paid and shall be deposited in a state or national bank selected by the clerk. On the first Monday in January of each year, the clerk shall make a list of the titles of all cases in the county court that were



finally determined more than one year past in which there remains unclaimed in the possession of the clerk any funds, or any part of a deposit for security of costs not consumed by the costs in the case. The clerk shall give notice of the moneys to the parties entitled to them or to their attorneys of record. All the moneys remaining unclaimed that are for restitution payments for crime victims shall be sent to the reparations fund created under section 2743.191 of the Revised Code, with a list from the clerk or other officer responsible for the collection and distribution of restitution payments specifying the amounts and individual identifying information of the funds. All other moneys remaining unclaimed on the first day of April of each year shall be paid by the clerk to the county treasurer. Any part of the moneys shall be paid by the county treasurer at any time to the person having the right to them, upon proper certification of the clerk.

(E)(1) In county court districts having appointed clerks, deputy clerks may be appointed by the board of county commissioners. Clerks and deputy clerks shall receive such compensation payable in semimonthly installments out of the county treasury as the board may prescribe. Each deputy clerk shall take an oath of office before entering upon the duties of the deputy clerk's office and, when so qualified, may perform the duties appertaining to the office of the clerk. The clerk may require any of the deputy clerks to give bond of not less than three thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the deputy clerk's duties.

(2) A clerk of courts acting as clerk of the county court may appoint deputy clerks to perform the duties pertaining to the office of clerk of the county court. Each deputy clerk shall take an oath of office before entering upon the deputy clerk's duties, and the clerk of courts may require the deputy clerk to give bond of not less than three thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the deputy clerk's duties.

(3) The clerk or a deputy clerk of a county court shall be in attendance at all sessions of the court, although not necessarily in the courtroom, and may administer oaths to witnesses and jurors and receive verdicts.

(F)(1) In county court districts having appointed clerks, the board of county commissioners may order the establishment of one or more branch offices of the clerk and, with the concurrence of the county judges, may appoint a special deputy clerk to administer each branch office. Each special deputy clerk shall take an oath of office before entering upon the duties of the deputy clerk's office



and, when so qualified, may perform any one or more of the duties appertaining to the office of clerk, as the board prescribes. Special deputy clerks shall receive such compensation payable in semimonthly installments out of the county treasury as the board may prescribe. Except as otherwise provided in section 3.061 of the Revised Code, the board may require any of the special deputy clerks to give bond of not less than three thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the deputy clerk's duties.

The board of county commissioners may authorize the clerk of the county court to operate one or more branch offices, to divide the clerk's time between the offices, and to perform duties appertaining to the office of clerk in locations that the board prescribes.

(2) A clerk of courts acting as clerk of the county court may establish one or more branch offices for the clerk's duties as clerk of the county court and, with the concurrence of the county court judges, may appoint a special deputy clerk to administer each branch office. Each special deputy clerk shall take an oath of office before entering upon the deputy clerk's duties and, when so qualified, may perform any of the duties pertaining to the office of clerk, as the clerk of courts prescribes. The clerk of courts may require any of the special deputy clerks to give bond of not less than three thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the deputy clerk's duties.

(G) The clerk of courts of the county shall fix the compensation of deputy clerks and special deputy clerks appointed by the clerk pursuant to this section. Those personnel shall be paid and be subject to the same requirements as other employees of the clerk under the provisions of section 325.17 of the Revised Code insofar as that section is applicable.