



Ohio Revised Code

Section 2937.02 Court to inform defendant of charge and rights.

Effective: March 20, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 5

(A) When, after arrest, the accused is taken before a court or magistrate, or when the accused appears pursuant to terms of summons or notice, the affidavit or complaint being first filed, the court or magistrate shall, before proceeding further:

(1) Inform the accused of the nature of the charge and the identity of the complainant and permit the accused or counsel for the accused to see and read the affidavit or complaint or a copy of the affidavit or complaint;

(2) Inform the accused of the right to have counsel and the right to a continuance in the proceedings to secure counsel;

(3) Inform the accused of the effect of pleas of guilty, not guilty, and no contest, of the right to trial by jury, and the necessity of making written demand for trial by jury;

(4) If the charge is a felony, inform the accused of the nature and extent of possible punishment on conviction and of the right to preliminary hearing;

(5) If the charge is a violation of section 2907.02 or 2907.03 of the Revised Code, inform the accused that a conviction of or plea of guilty to the violation may result in the following:

(a) In accordance with sections 3109.50 to 3109.507 of the Revised Code, the termination, denial, or limitation, as applicable, of the following:

(i) The accused's parental rights with respect to a child conceived as a result of the violation;

(ii) The rights of a relative of the accused with respect to a child conceived as a result of the violation.



(b) The granting of a petition to adopt a child conceived as a result of the violation without the accused's consent as described in division (E) of section 3107.07 of the Revised Code;

(c) The termination of the accused's, and the accused's relative's, eligibility to inherit from a child conceived as a result of the violation or the child's lineal descendants pursuant to section 2105.062 of the Revised Code.

(B) The court or magistrate may give the information provided pursuant to division (A) of this section to each accused individually, or, if at any time there exists any substantial number of defendants to be arraigned at the same session, the judge or magistrate may, by general announcement or by distribution of printed matter, advise all those accused concerning those rights general in their nature and informing as to individual matters at arraignment.