

DEFINITIONS

Civil is the branch of law governing private rights and remedies. Civil actions are separate from and not dependent upon criminal proceedings.

Juvenile includes any person under the age of 18 and not married at the time of the offense. Also referred to as “minor child”.

Parent includes but is not limited to:

- Married biological parents
- Divorced, single parent awarded custody.
- Custodial parent of a child born out of wedlock with no custody order.
- Family members awarded custody.

Parent does **NOT** include:

- State approved foster parents.
- State appointed Guardian Ad Litem.
- Parent(s) of married, emancipated juveniles.
- Step-parents who do not share in guardianship or custody.
- County Children’s Services Board of Ohio Youth Commission.

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THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS BROCHURE IS PROVIDED AS A COURTESY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE.

CONTACTS

Stark County Bar Association

(330) 453-0685
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Provides attorney referrals based on geographic area and specification

Community Legal Aid Services, Inc.

330.456.8361 | 1.866.584.2350
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Provides low income and senior population with legal assistance.

Alliance Municipal Court

Civil Division
330.823.6600
Mon., Wed-Fri. | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Canton Municipal Court

Civil Division
330.489.3203
Mon. - Fri. | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Massillon Municipal Court

Civil Division
330.830.1731
Mon. - Fri. | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Stark County Prosecutor’s Office does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or age.

PARENT LIABILITY FOR DELINQUENT ACTS OF A JUVENILE



CIVIL LAW OPTIONS IN CASES OF:

THEFT
PROPERTY DAMAGE
ASSAULT
VANDALISM
DESECRATION
ETHNIC INTIMIDATION



Stark County Prosecutor's Office

Prosecuting Attorney Kyle L. Stone
Stark County Office Building
110 Central Plaza S., Suite 510
330.451.7897

www.starkcountyohio.gov/prosecutor

Ohio law allows victims to file a lawsuit in civil court against the parents of a juvenile to recover money for the damages the juvenile caused to property, for theft, assault, vandalism, desecration or ethnic intimidation.

PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE OR THEFT COMMITTED BY A JUVENILE:

Ohio Revised Code §3109.09:

- A juvenile must have willfully committed the offense that caused injury or resulted in damage. This law does not apply to accidental or negligent behavior.
- A victim can file a civil action against a juvenile’s parent(s) within 2 years of the date of the offense.
- A board of education can agree that a parent perform community services in lieu of restitution.
- Restitution for provable damages (out of pocket expenses, repairs, etc.) is limited to \$10,000 plus court cost.

PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR ASSAULT COMMITTED BY A JUVENILE:

Ohio Revised Code §3109.10:

- A juvenile must have committed the offense willfully and maliciously by means or force likely to produce great bodily harm.
- A victim can file a civil law suit against a juvenile’s parent(s) within 1 year of the date of the offense.
- Restitution for provable damages (out of pocket expenses, repairs, etc.) is limited to \$10,000 plus court cost.

PARENTAL LIABILITY FOR VANDALISM, DESECRATION, OR ETHNIC INTIMIDATION COMMITTED BY A JUVENILE

Ohio Revised Code §2307.70(B):

- Restitution for provable damages (out of pocket expenses, repairs, etc.) is limited to \$15,000.
- Court costs and reasonable attorney fees may be recovered by victims in addition to any damages awarded.

COMMON ELEMENTS OF §3109.09, §3109.10 and 2307.70(B)

- A civil lawsuit can be filed against a parent of a juvenile, even if no delinquency (criminal) charges are filed.
- An adjudication (conviction) in juvenile court is not admissible in a civil lawsuit.
- Court costs may be recovered by victims in addition to any damages awarded.
- Insurance companies may file a civil lawsuit to recover amounts paid to a victim/policy holder.



A civil complaint may be filed in the Alliance, Canton or Massillon Municipal Court. For assistance with filing a claim, you may contact a private attorney, the Stark County Bar Association referral services or Community Legal Aid. However, an attorney is not required.