

# OVERVIEW OF TEXAS MUNICIPAL COURTS

Riley Fletcher Basic Municipal Law  
Seminar

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## Origins of the Court

Statutory Authority

Texas **Government** Code

Chapter 29: **Municipal Courts**

Chapter 30: **Municipal Courts of Record**

## Criminal Jurisdiction

- ❑ Exclusive Original Jurisdiction
- ❑ All criminal cases that arise under the City's ordinances
- ❑ Punishable by fine only; not to exceed
  - \$2,000.00; or
  - \$500.00

## Jurisdiction of Municipal Courts

"fine-only" misdemeanor  
fine plus authorized sanctions  
not including confinement

## Jurisdiction of Ordinance Violations

- Home Rule
- General Law
  - May be more than criminal
    - Injunctive
    - Civil Abatement
  - LGC authorize jail time
    - **SOBs: 243.010: Class A**

## Procedure in Municipal Court

Chapter **45** of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

## Types of Cases

- ❑ Traffic
- ❑ Juveniles (10-17)
- ❑ Penal Code
  - Public Intoxication
  - Family Violence Assault
  - Disorderly Conduct
    - Language
    - fighting

## List Five Magistrate Functions

1. Warrants
2. Presentation before the Magistrate (AKA "Magistration")
3. Setting Bail
4. Magistrate Orders of Emergency Protection
5. Examining Trials