

**30.4 ASSIGNMENT OF CRIMINAL CASES TO THE RE-ENTRY COURT (REEC)**

- (A) **Purpose.** The Cuyahoga County Re-Entry Court (REEC) is an intensive form of judicial release supervision committed to working with defendants to end the cycle of incarceration. The Court identifies eligible defendants, assesses their needs and links them to services specific to those needs to increase the likelihood of their rehabilitation and successful return to the community.
- (B) **Appointment of Judge(s) to Preside Over Re-Entry Court.** The Administrative Judge will select a Common Pleas Court, General Division Judge(s) to preside over the Re-Entry Court. The REEC Judge(s) will serve for a period of three years from the date of appointment. Upon approval of the Administrative Judge, the Judge(s) may be reappointed to successive terms. Any Common Pleas Court, General Division Judge who desires to preside over the Re-Entry Court may submit his or her name to the Administrative Judge for consideration.
- (C) **Eligibility.**
- (1) The defendant must be statutorily eligible for judicial release under R.C. 2929.20 or R.C. 2929.201;
  - (2) The defendant must be serving a prison term imposed in this Common Pleas Court;
  - (3) The defendant must intend to reside in this county or have a stable residence in a county adjacent to Cuyahoga County;
  - (4) The defendant may be currently serving prison terms on no more than two criminal case numbers from this Common Pleas Court;
  - (5) The defendant may be currently serving no more than his or her sixth prison term;
  - (6) The defendant cannot have any outstanding felony or misdemeanor arrest warrants, except on minor traffic matters;
  - (7) Defendants currently serving prison terms for contact sex offenses are ineligible, but those serving terms for non-contact offenses, namely, R.C. 2907.07, 2907.08, 2907.06, 2907.323(A)(3), 2907.32, 2907.21, 2907.321, 2907.322, and 2907.323(A)(1)-(2) are eligible;
  - (8) Defendants with any pending felony charges or open felony cases in any court are ineligible;
  - (9) The defendant must complete the entire application and questionnaire; incomplete applications and questionnaires will not be considered.
- (D) **Procedure for Admission.** Defendants may make application for Re-entry Court or file a judicial release motion. Both will be reviewed by the REEC Judge for all participating Sentencing Judges. The REEC Judge will review each application and motion and consider each defendant's suitability for participation and, if warranted, grant acceptance into the Court and notify the Sentencing Judge. The Sentencing Judge retains the discretion to determine whether or not to transfer the defendant's case to REEC and if so, the Sentencing Judge will request the Administrative Judge to reassign the case to the REEC Judge. Upon reassignment, the REEC Judge will assume all supervision of the defendant in his or her prison case number(s) and receive any new felony case(s) against the defendant during such supervision.

*Effective 03/11/2015.  
Amended 10/16/2019.*