

Program and Case Type Help & Information

If you are experiencing difficulties locating a particular case type in any of our available program types, the below program information may be helpful.

The program selection will drive which case types are available for selection. So, if you intend to file a matter and only know the case type that best applies to your cause of action, that case type may be available for selection under multiple program type selections.

Example: If case type labeled “Motor Vehicle Accident” best describes the nature of the action, that case type may be available for selection under the Arbitration, Major Non-Jury, and Major Jury programs. Further, if you select Commerce from the program type list, the case type “Motor Vehicle Accident” will not be available for selection.

Often, the case type is not the only factor in selecting the appropriate program type. The amount at issue demanded may limit which program type is appropriate.

Example: If case type labeled “Product Liability” best describes the nature of the action and the amount at issue demanded is under \$50,000.00, the only appropriate program type selection would be Arbitration. However, if the amount at issue is over \$50,000.00, the available Major Non-Jury and Major Jury could be appropriate, but Arbitration would not.

Other program and case type combinations are very specific. Agency Appeals program selection will have a very specific list of case types for any appeal from a local or state agency/board. The list will include, but not be limited to case types labeled Zoning Board of Adjustment, PennDOT-Motor Vehicle Appeals, and Tax Review Board. These case types will not be available for selection under any other program type.

MOST COMMON **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, TRIAL DIVISION – CIVIL** **COURT PROGRAMS**

ARBITRATION

- All cases having an amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, of \$50,000.00 or less shall be assigned to the Compulsory Arbitration Program of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County. Excluded are cases involving title to real estate.

MAJOR JURY

- All cases other than appeals from arbitration and special programs such as the Mass Tort and Commerce Case programs in which the amount in controversy is over \$50,000.00 and a jury trial has perfected upon the tender of the proper fee.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

- An action to foreclose a mortgage upon any estate, leasehold or interest in land but shall not include an action to enforce a personal liability.

RENT LEASE AND EJECTMENT

- An action brought to obtain possession of real property.

MAJOR NON JURY

- All cases other than appeals from arbitration and special programs such as the Mass Tort and Commerce Case programs in which the amount in controversy is over 50,000.00 and a jury trial has been waived.

COMMERCE

- The Commerce Program is an extension of the Day Forward Program, adopting additional features and alternative dispute resolution provisions that have helped to improve management of commercial and business litigation in other jurisdictions. (See Administrative Docket 20 of 2003 Commerce program Administrative Order)

CLASS ACTION

- A class action is commenced by the filing of a complaint with the Prothonotary. A class action may not be commenced by writ of summons, Pa. R.C.P. 1703(a) and a writ will not toll the statute of limitations as to members of the proposed class. A case filed as a “class action” is treated as such unless and until the court denies certification. Pa. R.C.P. 1701(a)

MASS TORT

- A mass tort action is commenced in the same manner as other civil actions. Every complaint must have the mass tort type of category prominently displayed on the complaint itself, e.g., Asbestos, Phen-Fen, etc., in order to ensure appropriate assignment. Each case filed in a mass tort category must be filed separately – multi-filed actions under one court term and number are not permitted.

MUNICIPAL COURT APPEALS

- An appeal from the entry of judgment by the Municipal Court in the manner prescribed by Philadelphia Civil Rules 310, 311, 312 and 313.

AGENCY APPEALS

- Appeals from various state and local agencies (e.g. Zoning Board of Adjustments or Pennsylvania Department of Transportation). Unless otherwise provided by statute, the appeal must be taken within 30 days of the mail date of the agencies decision.

PETITIONS

- Actions commenced pursuant to statutory authorization, including petitions for change of name and confirmation of arbitration awards.

JUDGMENTS

- Provides for the transfer of judgments from other jurisdictions and judgments by confession. Liens are entered where specific statutory authority provides for their filing with the Office of Judicial Records.