

Richland County Court of Common Pleas

General Division

50 PARK AVENUE EAST
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902

JUDGE BRENT N. ROBINSON
419-774-5570

JUDGE PHILLIP S. NAUMOFF
419-774-5567

MAGISTRATE ANDREA N. CLARK
419-774-2053

MAGISTRATE JILL M. COCHRAN
419-774-2053

MAGISTRATE MACKENZIE A. MAYER

February 5, 2026

Mr. Keith Allen Mauger
395 Blue Valley Road SW
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Re: *"Notice of Requirement of Court"*

Dear Mr. Mauger:

I am writing in response to a letter that you sent to the Richland County Clerk of Courts dated January 12, 2026. If it was your intent to file a civil action, although your letter states that you are not submitting a complaint, tort or suit, this letter fails to conform to the Ohio Civil Rules of Procedure and the Richland County Local Rules and, therefore, the clerk cannot accept it for filing as a civil action. You have also failed to include the required filing fee or an appropriate request to waive said filing fee.

Civil cases are to be filed in the county where any defendant resides or has his principal place of business or in which all or part of the claim for relief arose. Civ.R. 3(C). None of the parties mentioned in the letter are located in Richland County and none of the alleged acts forming the basis of your complaint occurred in Richland County. Richland County is not an appropriate venue for a civil action in this case.

The letter mentions a "grand jury," which is only provided for in criminal cases. The only crime mentioned is "trespass." In order to demonstrate criminal trespass, you must prove that the defendants, without privilege to do so, knowingly or recklessly entered or remained on the land or premises of another. R.C. § 2911.21.

Criminal trespass is a misdemeanor and is within the jurisdiction of the municipal court, not the court of common pleas. A common pleas court has original jurisdiction in felony cases, and its jurisdiction is invoked by the return of an indictment. *Click v. Eckle*, 174 Ohio St. 88, 186 N.E.2d 731 (1962).

It does not appear from your letter that you are referring to a trespass onto your real property, which is the only "trespass" referred to in criminal code and the only form of trespass recognized in civil actions. The criminal justice system is limited to the prosecution of only those acts which the legislature has deemed to be illegal, as codified in chapter 29 of the Ohio Revised Code.