

HISTORY

EDMONDS MUNICIPAL COURT

The Edmonds Municipal Court was established in 1986. At that time, the actual courtroom was above the Edmonds library. In January 2015, Linda W. Y. Coburn was appointed Judge of the Edmonds Municipal Court.

The court adjudicates all criminal misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases filed by the city of Edmonds Police Department resulting from crimes committed within the city limits of Edmonds. The court also adjudicates all civil infractions of city ordinances as well as a limited number of other civil matters. Cases in the Municipal Court are tried before juries comprised of Snohomish County residents with Edmonds addresses. The court's jurisdiction and authority is established in accordance with the Revised Code of Washington 3.46.030.

The administrative responsibilities of the court include case-flow management procedures, safeguarding financial records and transactions, maintaining all documents filed with the court, state crime system data entry and

implementing retention and public disclosure policies.

An average of seven thousand case filings have been processed through the court in the last five years. A sophisticated Administrative Office of the Courts computer tracks the defendants and their cases.

WHAT IS A MISDEMEANOR?

The Edmonds Municipal Court is a Court of Limited Jurisdiction This means it is a trial court with limited or restricted criminal and civil jurisdiction. This court processes two types of criminal charges, misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors

- **Misdemeanor:** Persons convicted of a misdemeanor can be sentenced to not more than 90 days in jail and a fine of not more than \$1,000.
- **Gross Misdemeanor:** Persons convicted of a gross misdemeanor can be sentenced to not more than 365 days in jail and a fine of not more than \$5,000.

WHAT IS AN INFRACTION?

Previously, many traffic and criminal charges were crimes. The legislature

has decriminalized many traffic, parks, wildlife and fisheries offenses. These offenses are now called infractions and are civil cases.

An infraction is not a crime, but failure to respond can result in the suspension of the person's drivers license, an additional \$52.00 failure to appear penalty and the case being referred to a collection agency.

A person cited with an infraction has four options.

- He/she may choose to pay the amount of the penalty shown on the front of the ticket.
- He/she may choose to have a mitigation hearing. This means, the person is admitting he/she committed the violation, but wishes to explain the circumstances of the infraction.
- He/she may choose to have a contested hearing. This means the person is not admitting he/she committed the violation. The procedure at the hearing will be for the Judge to consider the sworn statement filed by the citing officer. Then the person may testify or present any evidence or witnesses.

- *He/she may choose a deferred finding. This means that if he/she is eligible the court will not enter a finding for one year. If no new moving or non-moving violations are committed then the ticket will be dismissed. There is an administrative fee for this option and not all tickets qualify for a deferred finding.*

Alternative Commitment

In some cases, the Edmonds Municipal Court allows defendants to perform community service, home detention and work release in lieu of jail. Many of our defendants are first time offenders with little or no criminal history. Community service, work release and home detention provide the defendants the opportunity to give back to the community or to keep their jobs. These programs saved the City over \$144,000 in 2005.

Probation Department

In 2003, the Court developed a probation department under the general supervision of the Court Administrator. The Probation Officer monitors adult misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenders and certain juvenile offenders placed on probationary supervision; assures compliance with the orders of the court; preserves public safety; reduces recidivism and serves as the liaison between the court and the offenders.

The Probation Officer also conducts pre-sentence investigations, client evaluation, counseling and referrals, and coordinates and monitors client community service, and treatment programs.

PASSPORT AGENT

In March of 2002, Edmonds Municipal Court received from the US Bureau of Consular Affairs a Certificate of Designation as a passport agent of the Department of State. This provides a valuable service to our community

From 2002 to date, the number of applications processed is **11,302** and the revenue collected for the City of Edmonds is **\$317,565**.

AN INTRODUCTION TO



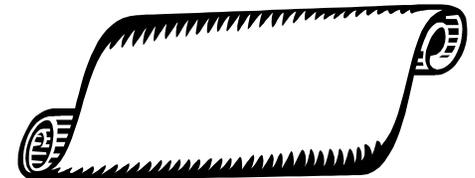
EDMONDS MUNICIPAL COURT

250-5th Ave. N.

Edmonds, WA 98020

(425) 771-0210

Fax: (425) 771-0269



Judge

Linda W.Y. Coburn

Court Administrator

Joan Ferebee