



July 22, 2024

---

# Criminal Jurisdiction

---

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee  
County Technical Assistance Service  
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
615.532.3555 phone  
615.532.3699 fax  
[www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)

Table of Contents

<b>Criminal Jurisdiction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Private Acts of 1947 Chapter 536 .....</b>	<b>3</b>

# Criminal Jurisdiction

## Private Acts of 1947 Chapter 536

**SECTION 1.** That the Court of General Sessions for Williamson County, Tennessee, as created by Chapter 424 of the Private Acts of 1939, is hereby vested with jurisdiction to try and determine and render final judgment in all misdemeanor cases brought before said Court by warrant, of information wherein the person charged with such offense enters a plea of guilty or requests a trial upon the merits, and expressly waives an indictment, presentment and a Grand Jury investigation, and a jury trial. In such cases the trial shall proceed before the Judge and without a jury. The final judgment of such Court may be appealed to the Circuit Court of Williamson County, Tennessee, where such appeal shall be tried by the Judge of such Court without a jury, and without indictment or presentment.

**SECTION 2.** That it shall be the mandatory duty of the Judge of the Court of General Sessions when a defendant is brought before such Court upon arraignment for trial, to advise such defendant of his constitutional rights to the aid of counsel, the right to be tried only upon presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury, the right to make a statement in reference to the accusation or the right to waive such statement in reference to the accusation, and the right to a trial by jury. Upon the defendant agreeing to waive the right to be put to trial only by presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury and the right to be tried by a jury of his peers such Court may proceed to hear and determine said case as is provided by Section 1 hereof. Said waiver shall be written or attached to the warrant substantially in words and figures as follows:

The defendant \_\_\_\_\_, pleads \_\_\_\_\_ guilty of such offense of \_\_\_\_\_ and waives his right to be tried only by presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury and likewise waives right of trial by jury of his peers.

---

**SECTION 3.** That the legislature expressly declares that each section, paragraph and provision of this Act is severable, and that should any portion of the Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the remainder of this Act, but such unconstitutional and invalid proportion shall be elided, and the Legislature declares that it would have enacted this Act with such parts elided therefrom.

**SECTION 4.** That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same **are, hereby repealed.**

**SECTION 5.** That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 4, 1947.

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/criminal-jurisdiction>