

Requirements for Filing Criminal Charges

1. Complete Defendant Information Required

You must provide the defendant's **first and last name** and a **current physical address**.

2. You Must Know the Charge You Are Filing

You must state the specific charge you wish to file. Court staff **cannot provide legal advice, recommend charges, or tell you what to file.**

3. Fee to Drop Charges

There is no fee to file charges however there will be a **\$50.00 fee per charge, per person** to drop criminal charges once filed.

4. Type of Criminal Offenses

Criminal offenses are classified as either:

- **Misdemeanor (Justice)** – A crime punishable by up to one (1) year in the county jail.
- **Felony (Circuit)** – A crime punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary, including Mississippi State Penitentiary.

Criminal charges must be filed in the **county where the crime occurred.**

5. Failure to Appear

If you do not appear for your scheduled court date, your case may be dismissed.

6. Responsibility for Court Date

It is your responsibility to keep track of your court date and appear as required.

SIMPLE ASSAULT	*Causing or attempting to cause bodily harm/injury using hands, fists, feet, etc *Attempting to put a person in fear of bodily harm
SIMPLE ASSAULT/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Against a boyfriend/girlfriend; husband/wife; brother/sister; parent/child)	*Attempting to cause bodily harm/injury *Negligently causing bodily harm/injury *Physically menacing someone to put them in fear of bodily harm/injury
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	*Causing or attempting to cause bodily harm/injury using a foreign object or weapon
ABUSE/NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE PERSON	*Committing an act of violence, neglect, physical pain, anguish, unreasonable confinement, against someone with a diminished compacity, elderly, etc
STALKING	*To repeatedly follow a person, causing them to fear for their safety
TELEPHONE HARASSMENT	*Using telecommunication to make obscene or lewd comments, requests, or suggestions; using telecommunication to harass, threaten or abuse
DISTURBING THE PEACE	*Using profane/abusive; Acting in a boisterous manner
DISTURBANCE OF FAMILY	*Entering someone's home, yard, public road, using profane/abusive language; Indecently exposing one's self
MALICIOUS MISCHIEF	*To disfigure, destroy, or injure property belonging to another person; Must include a dollar amount for restitution
TRESPASSING	*To go onto (or remain on) someone else's land, building, etc without permission
PETIT LARCENY	*To take, steal or carry away something (valued under \$1000) that belongs to someone else
GRAND LARCENY	*To take, steal or carry away something (valued over \$1000) that belongs to someone else