

Courts Where Tennessee Court Cases Were Tried

| TIME PERIOD | TYPE OF CASE | COURT |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1796-1809 | Any minor matter | Court of Common Pleas & Quarter Sessions |
| | Any larger matter; all appeals | Superior Courts of Law & Equity |

| TIME PERIOD | TYPE OF CASE | COURT |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1809-1834 | Any minor matter | Court of Pleas |
| | Larger law cases | Circuit Court |
| | Larger equity cases | Supreme Court (see 1822-1834 also) |
| | Appeals of law cases | Supreme Court |

| TIME PERIOD | TYPE OF CASE | COURT |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1822-1834 | Larger Equity Cases | Chancery Division of Supreme Court |

| TIME PERIOD | TYPE OF CASE | COURT |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1834-present | Business matters only (not disputes) | County Court |
| | Any law case | Circuit Court (which divided into Civil & Criminal courts in some places after 1847. Criminal heard "State" cases and Civil heard cases between individuals.) |
| | Any equity case | Chancery Court |
| | Appeals of all cases | Supreme Court |

Types of Cases Heard in the Courts after 1834

County Court: Appointment of administrators and guardians; reports of same; wills proved; widow's provisions laid off; road crews appointed; apprentices bound; wildcat/wolf bounties paid; paupers and "idiots" provided for; taxes adjusted.

Circuit Court: (Heard cases of *LAW* -- where laws had been broken and guilt or innocence was to be decided.) Civil Cases include debt, divorce, assault. State/Criminal Cases include theft, gambling, fighting, murder, bastardy.

Chancery Court: (Heard cases of *EQUITY* -- disputes in which court had to decide what would be fair to all parties.) Estate disputes; land and slave ownership disputes; business partnership dissolutions; division of property in divorces; incompetency rebuttals; claims against public officials.