

# Castle Rock Municipal Court Monthly Report



## What is a municipal court?

Municipal, or local, courts are often referred to as “quality of life courts.” These courts give the public their primary – and often, only – impression of the criminal justice system. More people go before municipal courts than state and federal courts. These courts are also described as the first line of defense a community has in dealing with criminal behavior.

Colorado Municipal Courts are given grants and limitations of power by the United States Constitution, the Colorado Constitution, and the Colorado Revised Statutes. They follow rules and procedure promulgated by the Colorado Supreme Court. These courts have original, special, exclusive, limited and concurrent jurisdiction in relation to other courts within the State:

- A municipal court has *original* jurisdiction because it is a trial court, and cases are originally filed there.
- The term *special jurisdiction* applies to municipal court because it hears only municipal ordinance and charter violation cases and – in home rule municipalities like Castle Rock – other matters determined by ordinance or charter and consistent with state law.
- Jurisdiction in a municipal court is *exclusive* in that its cases may not be heard by a municipal court in another city or town.
- Jurisdiction is *limited* because a municipal court is prohibited from hearing more serious criminal cases, such as:
  - o Drug and alcohol-related driving offenses
  - o Offenses related to drivers licenses
  - o Matters of statewide concern

- In a strict sense, a municipal court may not have concurrent jurisdiction with a county court, because a different body of substantive law is used. However, in a practical sense, a municipal court may have concurrent jurisdiction with a county court in matters held to be of both statewide and local concern, for example:
  - o Non-felony offenses
  - o No proof of insurance

Municipal Courts deal with violations of local laws committed within municipal limits. Generally, these laws involve traffic, parking, and shoplifting, and offenses such as dog leash law violations and disturbances.

## Castle Rock Municipal Court Mission Statement

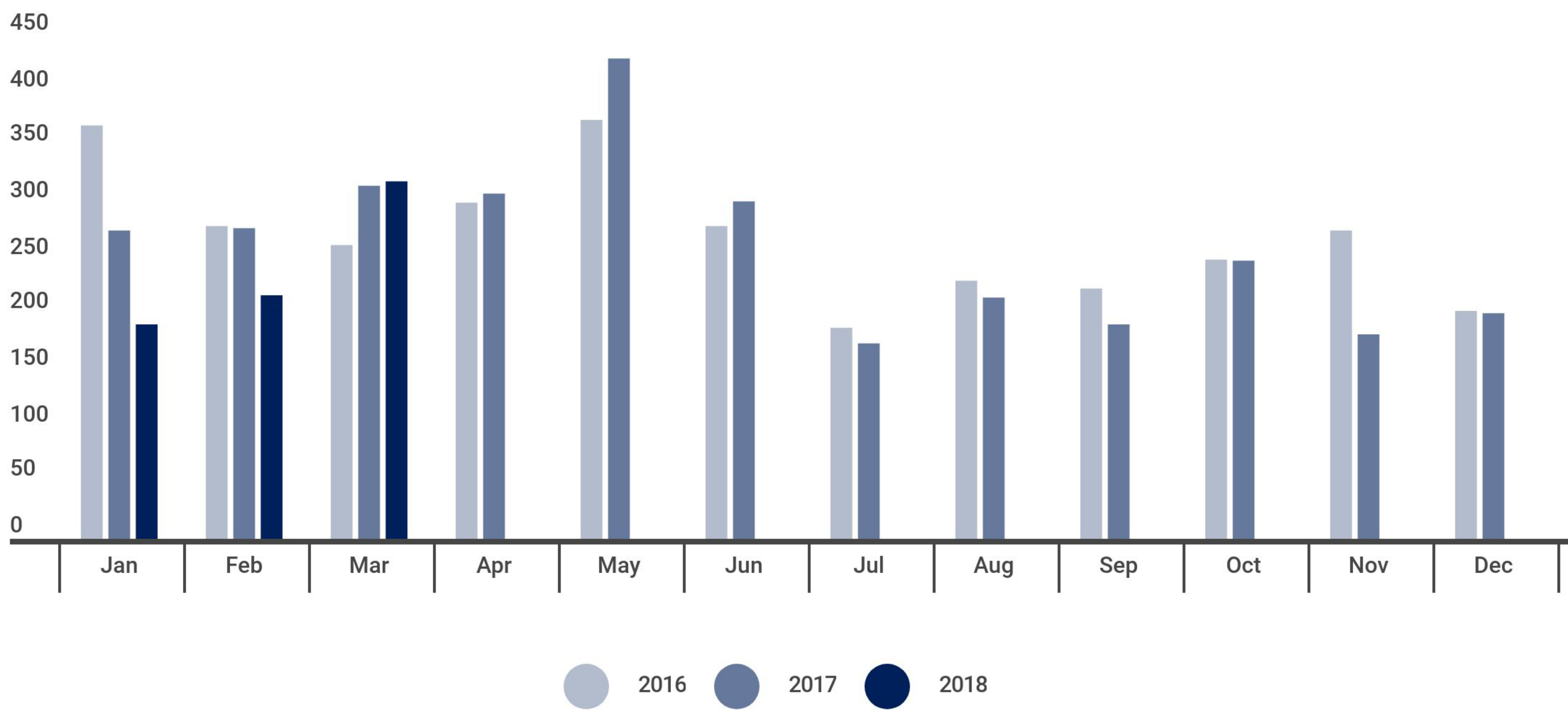
*The Castle Rock Municipal Court is committed to the administration of justice with equality, fairness and integrity, in an expeditious and timely manner for the people of the Town of Castle Rock.*

*The Court seeks to provide equal access to justice; prompt and courteous service; and independence and accountability of court actions, as well as to exercise case-management practices designed to facilitate the fair and timely dispositions of cases.*

*The Court values equality and fairness, excellence of service, respect for the individual, responsible use of resources, and strives to nurture public confidence and trust.*



Total cases filed in Castle Rock Municipal Court: 2016-2018



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2016	370	280	263	301	375	280	189	231	224	250	276	204	3,243
2017	276	278	316	309	430	302	175	216	192	249	183	202	3,128
2018	192	218	320										

Total cases filed in Castle Rock Municipal Court by type: March 2017 vs. March 2018

