

## Justice of the Peace

### Traffic Ticket Instructions

Please read the following carefully.

Once you receive a ticket from a law enforcement agency and it is filed with the Justice of the Peace in Titus County, Texas you need to enter a plea to the court:

All pleadings of the defendant in Justice Court must be in writing.

1. **Guilty:** A plea by which a defendant confesses to the crime with which the defendant is charged.

If you wish to enter a plea of *Guilty*: mark it on the **plea form** provided. Mail the ticket, plea form and money to the judge whose name appears on your ticket by the due date.

2. **Nolo contendere (no contest):** A plea in criminal cases in which the defendant does not contest the charge against the defendant; nolo contendere has the same legal effect as a guilty plea.

If you wish to enter a plea of *No Contest*: mark it on the **plea form** provided. Mail the ticket, plea form and money to the judge whose name appears on your ticket by the due date.

3. **Deferred adjudication:** A punishment alternative similar to probation whereby a guilty criminal defendant is required to live under certain conditions imposed by the court, and no final judgment is ever entered unless the deferred adjudication is revoked. (*example: driving safety course*)

- o If you wish to attend a driving safety course you will have to meet the following requirements:
  1. You must have a valid Texas driver's license.
  2. You must furnish the court a copy of your liability insurance coverage and your driver's license.
  3. You must pay an administrative fee/ court costs of **\$112.10** by money order or cashier's check.
  4. You must complete and submit the **driving safety course form**
  5. You will furnish a copy of your driving record which may be obtained at <http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us>

## DISQUALIFICATIONS:

You cannot take the course if:

- You have taken the course in the last 12 months and if you are currently taking the course for a ticket filed in another court.
- If you are charged with speeding 25-miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit OR 95 miles per hour or more.
- You hold a Commercial Driver's license (Regardless if the violation occurred in your private vehicle)
- You are ticketed for passing a school bus.
- You are ticketed for speeding in a construction zone with workers present.
- You are ticketed for leaving the scene of an accident.

Once you have met all the qualifications listed above you may enter a plea of guilty or no contest and mail your **driving safety course form**, money order or cashier check, and a copy of liability insurance coverage and your driver's license to the judge whose name appears on your ticket. This must be done on or before the due date of the ticket. The court will require for you to have the course completed within 90 days. You will need to furnish the court with your driver record and your driver safety certificate by the 90<sup>th</sup> day. You will be on deferral (meaning no moving violation tickets) for 6 months as well.

#### 4. **Not guilty:** A plea in which the defendant denies guilt.

If you wish to enter a plea of *Not Guilty* and desire a trial, you must fill out the **plea form** and contact the court with the judge's name on the ticket by the due date on the ticket.

**Failure to respond to each charge on your ticket will result in a warrant being issued for your arrest on each charge, private collections adding fees, and your driver's license being suspended.**

Please contact the appropriate court to receive information pertaining to your ticket.