

# Traffic Ticket Instructions

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

All pleadings of the defendant in justice court may be in writing. If you are 16 years or younger, the law requires that you appear in court with a parent, guardian, or managing conservator. A person 16 years of age or younger cannot pay the fine by mail or in person. They must come to open court before the Justice of Peace when making their plea. (Tex Code of Crim. Proc. Art 45.021)

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. Refer to the fine schedule to determine the total amount of your fine. If your violation is not listed contact the court. Mail the ticket, plea form and money order or cashier's check 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. Refer to the fine schedule to determine the total amount of your fine. If your violation is not listed contact the court. Mail the ticket, plea form and money order or cashier's check to the judge whose name appears on your ticket by the due date.

3. **Deferred Disposition:** 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 disposition is revoked.

4. **Drivers Safety Course:** If you choose the option of drivers safety or a motorcycle operator course to have your citation dismissed, the only amount due is an administrative fee of \$105.00, or if your violation was in a school zone the administrative fee is \$130.00.

If you wish to attend a driving safety course or a motorcycle operator training course you will have to meet the following requirements:

1. You must have a valid Texas driver's license.
2. You have not taken a Drivers Safety Course for a ticket in the last 12 months and you are not currently taking the Driving Safety Course for a ticket filed in another court.
3. You are not charged with speeding 95 miles per hour or more or speeding 25 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit.
4. You do not have a Texas commercial Driver's License.
5. You must pay an administrative fee by money order or cashier's check.
6. You will furnish the court a current copy of your liability insurance coverage.

Once you have met all the qualifications listed above you may enter a plea of no contest by completing the Affidavit and Request to Take A Driving Safety Course. Mail affidavit and request for driving safety course form, money order or cashier's check, and a copy of liability insurance coverage to the judge whose name appears on your ticket. ***This must be done on or before the due date of the ticket.*** Once the court has received all that is required you will have 90 days to complete the course and request a copy of your driving record TYPE 3A which may be obtained at [www.texas.gov](http://www.texas.gov). You will need to furnish the court with proof of DSC completion certificate (court copy) and copy of your driving record TYPE 3A.

5. **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. ALSO AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF 30% MAY BE ADDED FOR COLLECTION COSTS.**