

\*\*\*Fines are subject to change\*\*\*

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The following information is provided as a courtesy of the Justice Courts to assist you in taking care of the traffic Violation (s) with which you are charged. Most of the questions you have should be answered herein. If you have questions after reading the pamphlet, we will be happy to assist you.

## NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED

**If you are a Minor (Under 17), you must be accompanied by your parent or guardian to see the Judge.**

Effective September 1, 2003, anyone who possesses a Commercial Driver's License is **NO LONGER** eligible to take a Driver's Safety Course or to request Deferred Disposition/ Adjudication from the Court, Whether you are driving a passenger or commercial vehicle.

### OUT OF STATE VIOLATIONS:

Failure to comply with the terms of the citation will result in the issuance of a Non- Resident Violator Compact and your driver's license being **SUSPENDED**.

### OPTIONS

A. To pay the fine without having to appear in Court:

1. Find the correct amount (on the back of this page) for the offense (s) which you are charged.
2. Fill out & sign the Plea form #1 below. Submit payment & the Plea to the Court by the appearance date, along with a copy of the ticket. All payments sent by mail **MUST** be postmarked on or before the appearance date. Cashier's Checks, Money Orders accepted, made payable to Howard County or the name of the Judge that appears on the Citation.

### (ABSOLUTELY NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS)

B. To plead Not Guilty, and request your case set for Trial:

1. Sign Form #2 below. Submit your plea form to the Justice Court (listed on your citation) by the appearance date. You must circle your choice of trial.

**WARNING!** If you do not remit the fine, contact the Justice of the Peace office, and make arrangements by the appearance date on the citation, you will be assessed an additional charge for **FAILURE TO APPEAR**. IF a warrant is issued, additional fees will be added to the original amount owed on each violation.

YOU MAY BE DENIED the renewal of your DRIVER'S LICENSE.

### PLEA FORM #1

I HEREBY PLEAD: (CIRCLE ONE)

**GUILTY**                    **NOLO-CONTENDERE**  
TO THE CHARGE(S) AGAINST ME, WAIVE  
A JURY TRIAL, AND ENCLOSE PAYMENT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Defendant)

### PLEA FORM #2

I HEREBY PLEAD

**NOT GUILTY**  
TO THE CHARGE(S) AGAINST ME, AND I  
REQUEST A TRIAL BEFORE A (CIRCLE ONE)  
**COURT JURY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Defendant)

## Driving Safety Course

Under the laws of the State of Texas you may request that one charge against you be dismissed by successfully completing a driving safety course or a motorcycle operator training course. You will lose that right if, on or before your appearance date, you do not provide the Court with a notice of your request to take the course. If you meet all the qualifications on the statement printed below, you MUST RETURN THE FOLLOWING to this office:

- Proof of Financial responsibility (Insurance Card)
- This notarized statement
- \$110 Non refundable Court Costs and administrative fee. The information requested must be mailed (postmarked) by the due date on the ticket.

**ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSIONS AND NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED.**

*Statement required of those taking a Driving Safety Course*

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (Defendant); I hereby plead (CIRCLE ONE) Nolo-Contendere or Guilty to this charge. I have not taken a Driving Safety Course within the past 12 months in lieu of paying a fine; I am not in the process of taking a Driving Safety Course; I have not completed a Driving Safety Course that is not yet reflected on my driving record; I was not speeding over 24 mile over the posted speed limit I possess a valid TEXAS driver's license or permit (NO CDL). (EXCEPTION TO THE RULE: if you are a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty, possess an out of state driver's license and mail the Court a copy of your military orders.) IF the Court approves my request for DSC they will provide me with an application to obtain a copy of my driving record. Upon receipt of my driving record, I will submit it to the Court. I understand that once I complete the DSC course, it is my responsibility to provide the Court with the ORIGINAL Defensive Driving Court Certification that the school mails me and my Driving Record, in order for my citation to be dismissed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant (must sign in the presence of a notary)

Sworn & subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary

Note: execution of a false affidavit is perjury and punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

**\*\*Note: Fines will double in a construction zone if workers present\*\***

### Fine amounts for miles over posted speed limit: (Revised 2015)

Speeding		Fail to control speed	\$175.00
1-5 MPH—\$135.00	16-20— \$205.00	Follow too Close	\$175.00
6-10 —\$155.00	21-25 —\$230.00	No Child Safety Seat	\$200.00
11-15 —\$180.00	26-30 —\$285.00	No Driver's License	\$200.00
31 & above over posted speed limit	\$315.00	No Insurance	\$275.00
<b>DSC not allowed Over 95 MPH or +25 MPH over Speed limit.</b>		Pass/Fail yield Emergency/TXDOT Veh.	\$300.00
Allow Child Ride in open bed	\$250.00	Pass School Bus	\$600.00
Driver/ Passenger no seat belt	\$150.00	Run Stop Sign/ Light	\$230.00
Driving While license invalid	\$350.00	Disregard Warning sign-Construct.	\$500.00
Exp/ No Inspection	\$160.00	Fail to drive in single lane	\$175.00
Exp/ No Registration	\$170.00	Fail to give way when being overtaken	\$140.00

**For Violations not listed above, contact the Justice of the Peace Office.**

---Payment Options---

Fines may be paid by money order or cashier's check.

Payments can be made by debit or credit card. Additional \$6.25 convenience fee will be added. Contact the Court for information on how to pay online or by telephone. No Cash or personal checks accepted.