



Justice Center
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Traffic Offenses

The information contained in this packet is not offered as legal advice. The information is not exhaustive. There may be other remedies and procedures not contained in this packet. You should seek professional, licensed, legal counsel for advice.

You are required by law to file an answer (plea) to the charge(s) filed against you. You must contact the court, either in person, or in writing by the contact date on your citation (ticket). There are 3 possible pleas:

- Guilty- admitting to the offense
- No Contest- not formally admitting guilt but not contesting the charges filed.
- Not Guilty- Disputing the charges filed. When this plea is used you have an option and must state your desire for a trial by Judge or Jury. In a trial by Judge, or Bench trial, it is the Judge that will decide if you are guilty of the offense and if convicted, assess the penalty. In a Jury trial, it is the Jury that will decide if you are guilty of the offense and if convicted, in some instances assess the penalty.

A plea of Guilty or No Contest will result in a finding of guilt by the court, along with a penalty.

**If you would like to dispose of your citation with either a driver's safety course or deferred disposition you must submit a formal request to the court, along with a plea of guilty or no contest.

Am I eligible to take a Driver's Safety Course?

- The offense must be an offense committed while operating a motor vehicle (moving violation)
- The driver must hold a valid Class C non-commercial Texas Driver's License
- The driver must have valid Personal liability insurance

- The defendant must not have taken a driver safety course to dispose of a traffic offense within the last 12 months
- The defendant must not be currently taking a driver safety course to dispose of another offense
- The request to take the driver safety course must be made on or before the appearance date
- The defendant must plead Guilty or No Contest
- The defendant must pay the court costs \$146.00
- The defendant must provide satisfactory completion of a certified driving safety course and a copy of the defendant's driving record form 3A obtained from the Department of Public Safety.

OFFENSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DISCHARGE THROUGH A DRIVING SAFETY COURSE:

- Speeding 25 or more miles per hour over the posted speed limit
- Speeding 95 mph or more
- Construction or maintenance work zone violations (when workers are present)
- Failure to stop at the scene of an accident involving damage to a vehicle
- Failure to give information or render aid
- Reckless Driving
- Overtaking a school bus
- Passing a school bus while children are loading or unloading
- Fleeing Law Enforcement
- Offenses committed by a driver holding a CDL

What is Deferred Disposition?

Deferred disposition under the Code of Criminal Procedure 45.051 is available for any misdemeanor case punishable by fine only.

To qualify, the defendant **MUST**:

- Submit a request in writing for Deferred Disposition on or before the appearance day on the citation.
- Plead Guilty or No Contest or be found guilty by the court
- Agree to the terms and conditions set by the court
- Pay the court costs, plus a "Special Expense Fee" to be paid at the beginning of the term of deferment

- Comply with the Court's requirements, which may include a driving safety course or any "reasonable condition".
- Comply with the court's conditions and commit no moving violations for a period of 30 to 180 days as set by the court.
- Provide the court with satisfactory proof of completion of the court's requirements

**Failure to pay fees and costs or to comply with the court's conditions will result in a conviction and payment of a fine.

**Approval for deferred disposition is at the discretion of the judge.

If you have any additional questions please contact the court.