

**The Court wants you to be aware of your rights in court when charged with a criminal or traffic offense, and of certain procedures that will occur, as listed below:**

1. You have the right to be informed of the nature of the charge(s) against you, and the possible penalty (as well as any mandatory penalty) if found guilty after a plea or trial.
2. You have the right to be represented by an attorney, even if you intend to plead guilty, and you have the right to a reasonable continuance in the proceedings to secure an attorney. If you have been charged with an offense where a jail term may be imposed, and you are unable to pay for an attorney, an attorney can be assigned to represent you, with the only cost being a \$25.00 application fee that you are required by law to pay to the state public defender.
3. You do not need to make a statement and any statement made may be used against you.
4. You have the right to bail if you been charged with a bailable offense.
5. For serious offenses, and petty offenses where a jail term can be imposed, you have the right to a jury trial. If you have been charged with a petty offense where a jail term can be imposed, you must make a written jury demand at least ten days before trial or three days after getting notice of the trial date, whichever is later.
6. You may enter a plea of guilty, no contest, or not guilty. The plea of **GUILTY** is a complete admission of guilt. The plea of **NO CONTEST** is not an admission of guilt but is an admission of the truth of the facts alleged in the complaint, and such plea cannot be used against you in any subsequent civil proceeding. The plea of **NOT GUILTY** is a complete denial of the facts alleged in the complaint. Importantly, you may plead not guilty even if you believe you are guilty and have no possible defense to the charge(s) because you are presumed innocent until the State proves your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, unless you enter a plea of guilty. In addition, a plea of not guilty preserves your opportunity to attempt to negotiate an agreed resolution of the case.
7. If you enter a plea of not guilty, the case will either be set for a pre-trial or for trial. The trial must occur within the time limits prescribed by law unless you waive that requirement. That trial will be to the judge unless you have timely demanded a jury, and at trial, you have (a) the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses; (b) the right to present your own evidence and witnesses, and to subpoena witnesses to appear at trial; (c) the right to remain silent at trial, and the fact that you do not testify cannot be held against you; and (d) the right to require the State to prove the charge(s) against you beyond a reasonable doubt.
8. If you enter a plea of guilty or no contest, you waive all of these rights, and the Court will impose a sentence. Prior to sentencing, you have the right to make a statement on your own behalf or present any information in mitigation of punishment.
9. If you are not a citizen of the United States, pleading guilty or no contest to the offense may have the consequences of deportation, exclusion from admission to the United States, or denial of naturalization pursuant to the laws of the United States.