

CITY OF TAFT MUNICIPAL COURT
501 Green Avenue
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 416, Taft, TX 78390
Phone: (361) 528-3512 ext. 114
Fax: (361) 528-3515

Pay Online: www.tafttx.gov

Court Email: rmedina@tafttx.gov

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION PRIOR TO CONTACTING COURT

This courtesy letter is provided to assist you in making disposition of the charges pending against you.

Persons 16 and under MUST APPEAR IN PERSON and with a PARENT/GUARDIAN

The **JUDGE** and **STAFF** are **forbidden by law** from discussing anything about a pending case prior to a plea being entered. We may discuss general procedures of the court only.

****TELEPHONE CALLS/EMAIL/FAX REPLIES DO NOT CONSTITUTE APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COURT ****

Failure to respond to the court by your appearance date may result in additional charges of **FAILURE TO APPEAR**. You may also be denied **RENEWAL** of your **Driver's License**.

If you have an **Out-of-State License**, it may mean **suspension of your license** in your license state.

A defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense punishable by fine only is entitled to alternative methods of satisfying the judgment against them if they are unable to pay the fine or costs in whole or in part.

If you are charged with **NO LIABILITY INSURANCE** and can produce proof to the court that you had Valid Insurance that was **in effect on the date and time of your citation**, the charge will be dismissed.

If any part of a fine or cost is not **PAID IN FULL within 30 days** of conviction, a **mandatory \$15.00 Time Payment Fee** shall be added to the total amount due, as required by law.

The Judge may grant Deferred Disposition on your charge. If granted, you will be put on a type of probation between 1-180 days, you will also be assessed a court cost and special expense fee and given conditions that must be met during the deferral period. If you comply, then the charges against you will be dismissed and you will not have a conviction on your record. If you do not comply, then a conviction on the charges will be entered. This must be requested by you and may be granted by the JUDGE only.

(Does not apply to CDL license holders or offenses in a construction zone with worker's present)

*****Any individuals who are over 65 and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions or if you have symptoms of or are not comfortable appearing in person due to COVID 19 – You MUST contact the court immediately and identify yourself as a vulnerable individual and the court will make special accommodations for you to have a remote/video or telephone conference hearing/trial.**

These will be available on certain days and times-Please check court website or call for information***

To insure proper credit, mail a copy of your citation along with the completed reply form (on back).

CITY OF TAFT MUNICIPAL COURT SCHEDULE OF FINES

FINES LISTED ARE MINIMUM ONLY AND MAY BE CHANGED BY THE JUDGE

If offense charged is in a **School Zone** add an **additional \$25** to the cost

Offenses by Minors/Minor in Possession of Alcohol/Tobacco/D.U.I etc.....Contact Court

Offenses in Construction Zone w/workers present.....Contact Court

SPEEDING.

1-5.....\$235 ***
6-10.....\$270 ***
11-15.....\$290 ***
16-20.....\$310 ***
21 & OVER.....\$334 ***

CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

High weeds, Grass, Vegetation.....\$281
Junk/Abandoned Vehicles.....\$281
Nuisance: Litter, Debris, etc.....1st - \$281...2nd - \$481
Animal ControlContact Court

Window Tint/Unapproved Sunscreening...\$235 Stop sign/Stop Light/Railroad crossing.....\$285

No Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance (dismissed w/ no fee if proof valid at date/time of offense)...\$381

Driving While License Invalid/Suspended – DWLI/DWLS.....\$381

Cell Phone use in City Limits.....\$381

No/Expired Registration (dismissed if remedied w/in 20 days w/proof and \$20 dismissal fee).....\$181

No Driver's License/Permit Unlicensed person to drive.....\$281

Violate Promise to Appear on Citation (VPTA).....\$381

REPLY FORM (Check and circle plea choice)

_____ I enter a plea of **GUILTY / NO CONTEST** and waive my right to a jury trial.

_____ I enter a plea of **NOT GUILTY** and request a TRIAL by ____ **JUDGE** ____ **JURY**

Signature _____ **Print name** _____

Current mailing address _____

Phone number (_____) _____

(If you enter a plea of Not Guilty-You will be notified by mail of your trial date)

DSC Information and Requirements

You may be eligible to take a Driver Safety Course to dismiss a moving violation from your record. You must make the request in person or by mail (must be postmarked) by your appearance date on citation. You must have a valid Texas DL or be Active US Military and not have completed a DSC within the past 12 months. **CDL license holders and 25 miles over limit or 95+ mph are INELIGIBLE** for this.

***** YOU MUST INCLUDE WITH DSC REQUEST ALL OF THE FOLLOWING *****

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Payment of \$144/ School Zone \$169 | 2. Copy of Valid DL/Military ID |
| 3. Copy of Proof of Vehicle Insurance | 4. Copy of your citation |
| 5. Reply Form (Below) | 6. Sworn Affidavit of Eligibility (Below) |

_____ I enter a plea of **GUILTY/NO CONTEST** and request time to complete a Driver Safety Course.

SWORN AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY (must be notarized)

I, _____ do hereby swear that I am not currently in the process of taking a Driver Safety Course for any other violation and have not completed a course within the last 12 months.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

Signature of defendant _____ Print name _____

_____(Notary Public or Court Clerk)