

LAVON MUNICIPAL COURT

TRIALS

Pursuant to your plea of Not Guilty, please read the following information and sign where provided below.

When pleading Not Guilty, you have two options:

1. Trial by Court. Trial by Court means the Judge will hear the evidence presented and render a judgement, or
2. Trial by Jury. Trial by Jury means a jury comprised of six citizens of the City of Lavon will hear the evidence presented and render a verdict.

If you are found not guilty, there are no charges and the violation will not appear on your driving record.

If you are found guilty, you will be assessed a fine which is provided for by the State (typically 0-\$500 for traffic violations), Court costs (approximately \$95) and in the case of jury trials, a \$3 fee per juror. You may not receive Deferred Disposition or Defensive Driving and the violation will appear on your driving record. If you are unable to pay the fine and costs in total at the time of your trial, the State requires the Court to charge an additional \$15.00 per violation for an extension or payment plan.

You may be represented by attorney or you may represent yourself pro se. An attorney will not be appointed to represent you in Municipal Court. If you represent yourself in either a trial before the Court or a jury trial, you will be given an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses called by the prosecution, directly examine witnesses you choose to call and argue your case to either the Court or jury. You do not have to testify at your own trial. You may invoke your Fifth Amendment privilege against testifying or you may waive that privilege and testify in your own behalf.

You may also choose to plea bargain your case with the prosecuting attorney, subject to the approval of any such bargain by the Judge.

For all trials by jury, you will be required to attend a pre-trial hearing at which time a jury trial date will be set.

If you fail to appear for trial or pre-trial when set, an additional charge of Failure to Appear will be filed against you and a warrant for your arrest will be issued.

I, the undersigned defendant, do acknowledge that I have received, read and understand all the information stated above and choose:

_____ Trial by Court _____ Trial by Jury _____ To withdraw my plea of Not Guilty

Date

Signature

Printed Name

This paper is for informational purposes only; it is not intended to provide you with legal advice