

37TH CIRCUIT COURT
WEST PLAINS MUNICIPAL
DIVISION



1910 HOLIDAY LANE
WEST PLAINS, MO
(417)256-6154

WM. T. HASS,
MUNICIPAL JUDGE

YAVONNE MYERS,
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

SARAH HESELTON,
DEPUTY CLERK

"Arraignment" is the process when the Court reads the charges to you and you are then given an opportunity to plead either Not Guilty, Guilty or No Contest.

"Not Guilty" means that you deny that you committed the violation and are requesting a trial;

"Guilty" means that you admit to committing the violation and you are waiving your right to a trial as well as other rights (listed below);

"No Contest" means that you are not admitting that you committed the violation but you believe that you would probably be found guilty at trial and you are waiving your right to a trial as well as other rights (listed below).

You are presumed to be innocent and it is up to the city prosecutor to prove, at trial, that you are guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

You also have the following rights:

1. The right to know what you are charged with;
2. The right to an attorney if there is a chance that you will go to jail upon pleading guilty, no contest or if found guilty at trial. If you cannot afford an attorney and wish to have one, the Court may appoint one to represent you;
3. The right to plead Not Guilty and have a trial before a Judge or Jury;
4. The right to ask questions of witnesses that appear on behalf of the city as well as those that appear on your behalf;
5. The right to remain silent at trial and not answer questions;
6. The right to appeal if you are found guilty at trial.

By pleading Guilty or No Contest you are WAIVING or giving up these rights.

If you plead Guilty or No Contest, the Court will proceed on the presumption that you are doing so voluntarily and not as the result of a threat or promise by another party unless YOU tell the Court otherwise. You will be given an opportunity to address the Court prior to sentencing.

The POSSIBLE range of punishment for: Minor Traffic Violations: A fine and costs up to a total amount of \$225.00.
All other violations: A fine and costs up to a total amount of \$529.50, plus restitution if any, and/or up to a total of 90 days in jail.

If you are unable to pay the amount of the fines and costs assessed today, you will be given an opportunity to make monthly payments or, in the alternative, do Community Service Work for the city.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, be advised that a plea of guilty to or conviction of the offense that you are charged with may result in deportation, denial of admission to the United States, or denial of naturalization status.

If you plead "Not Guilty" the matter will be set for trial and that trial will NOT be the same day as the arraignment. You will be given an opportunity prior to the trial to visit with the city prosecutor to try and resolve the matter if you wish to do so.

If you have further questions, you may ask the Judge when you appear before him.
HOWEVER, the decision to plead Guilty, Not Guilty or No Contest is YOUR decision alone .