

Criminal Cases

Unless otherwise directed, Defendants will appear at the Justice Court in which the case is filed, according to the date and location written on their citation or summons.

Alternatives to Payment of Fines and Costs

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. Those alternative methods include a payment plan or performing community service. If performing community service imposes an undue hardship, a Defendant who is indigent is entitled to a waiver of the fine and costs, in whole or in part.

Plea of Guilty or Nolo Contendere & Assessment of Fines and Costs

Defendants may enter a plea of guilty or nolo contendere (no contest). Each Justice Court shall maintain a list of “standard” fines for various offenses.

Driving Safety Course & Deferred Disposition

Eligible Defendants may be able to require that their charge be dismissed by successfully completing a driving safety course.

Eligible Defendants may request deferred disposition to keep the offense from appearing on their driving and/or criminal records. The Court may impose a special expense fee and, upon successful completion, the case is dismissed.

Plea of Not Guilty, Setting Cases & Pretrial

Defendants may enter a plea of not guilty. Cases are set at the request of the Defendant or defense attorney. All criminal cases are to be brought to trial or final disposition as promptly as practicable. Pretrials are normally conducted in Class C cases. Any preliminary matters must be filed before or at pretrial.

Demand for Jury

The Justice Courts utilize the electronic method of selecting names of persons assigned for jury service. Jury impaneling is conducted in cooperation with the District, Municipal and County Courts.