



## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 2-1

### CRIMINAL PLEA

For class c misdemeanors for which the punishment is fine only the court can accept a criminal defendant's plea by mail. Just in other criminal cases the defendant is considered innocent until such time as a Judge or jury finds the defendant guilty and/or the defendant enters a plea of guilty.

In most cases, with the exception of holders of commercial driver's licenses, the Judge will grant a deferred disposition which means that if the defendant complies with the court's order the court will refrain from reporting the conviction on the defendant's driving record.

### STEPS TO MAKING A PLEA BY MAIL

1. **Step 1-** The Defendant should complete the plea sheet and enter any plea they like. If the Defendant enters a plea of no contest or guilty the Court will set a fine and court cost which is due at the time of conviction. The Defendant may request time to pay the court cost and fine through a payment plan. If the Defendant enters a plea of not guilty the court will give the Defendant a pretrial notice in which the Defendant is expected to appear.
2. **Step 2 –** The defendant should include a copy of a driver's license or identification card with their plea.
3. **Step 3-** The Court will render a judgment and an order for deferred disposition. If necessary, the Court will set a payment due date and give the Defendant a copy of the due date.

**FAILURE TO PAY TOLL –** The Court will gladly reduce the amount of the fine and court cost from \$319.00 to \$119.00 once the defendant presents a payment receipt. Contact the NTTA directly at 972-818-6882 to make a payment on the tolls (only). Once a payment is made to the tollway, the Defendant may forward the receipt to the Court via email at [JP21Court@DallasCounty.org](mailto:JP21Court@DallasCounty.org). A payment to the NTTA DOES NOT mean that the case is dismissed.

### OTHER INFORMATION

1. **DRIVER'S LICENSE HOLDS/OMNI HOLDS –** The Court will automatically release a hold on a driver's license once payments are made in full.
2. **INDIGENCY HEARINGS -**The Court holds hearings on a defendant's ability to pay weekly.
3. **ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSALS –**In some cases the Defendant is entitled to an administrative dismissal when they remedy the issue that cause the ticket.
4. **OCCUPATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE –** The Court is able to issue an Occupational Driver's License for Defendant who have had their license suspended for a surcharge.
5. **PAYMENT ONLINE –**The Defendant may make payments online at [www.JudgeMO.org](http://www.JudgeMO.org). Please refer to the case number.

***Judge Margaret O'Brien, Justice of the Peace 2-1***

140 N. Garland Avenue, Garland, TX 75040

Phone: (214) 643-4773 • Fax (214) 643-4772

E-mail: [JP21Court@dallascounty.org](mailto:JP21Court@dallascounty.org) • Website: [www.JudgeMO.com](http://www.JudgeMO.com)

STATE OF TEXAS	§	IN THE JUSTICE COURT
Vs.	§	
_____	§	PRECINCT 2, PLACE 1
<i>Defendant(s)</i>	§	
_____	§	
<i>Offense / Fine</i>	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

**Initial All that Apply**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am over the age of 25.  
*I may request a deferred disposition to keep this criminal offense off my driving record.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I hold a CDL (commercial driver’s license).  
*The Court cannot offer a CDL holder a deferred disposition.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I am between the ages of 18-25.  
*I must take a driver safety course to be granted a deferred disposition to keep this criminal offense off my driving record.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I am 17 years of age or below.  
*My parent/guardian is required to appear with me before the court can accept a plea from me. I may request alternative methods to discharge fines and court cost such as tutoring or community service.*

**DEFENDANT PLEA ON CRIMINAL OFFENSE**

**Initial One**

\_\_\_\_\_ **NOT GUILTY BENCH TRIAL** – I **plead not guilty** and request a trial before the judge.

\_\_\_\_\_ **NOT GUILTY JURY TRIAL** – I **plead not guilty** and request a trial before a jury. I understand that if I **FAIL TO APPEAR** for my jury trial on the date and time set by the Court, **I AM OBLIGATED TO PAY** for the entire **COST INCURRED FOR IMPANELING THE JURY** for failing to appear at my trial, the Court will issue an **ORDER**, enforceable by **CONTEMPT**, for me to fulfill my obligation to pay the entire cost for impaneling the jury. I understand that if the Court finds me in **CONTEMPT**, the Court may assess punishment of a **FINE** of up to \$100.00, or **CONFINEMENT** in the **COUNTY JAIL** for up to three days for both **CONFINEMENT** and a fine.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **promise to appear on any date for which this case is scheduled**. I understand that if I **do not appear** a **Failure to Appear charge may be filed against me and a warrant may be issued for my arrest**.

\_\_\_\_\_ **NOLO CONTENDERE/NO CONTEST** – I plead nolo contendere (meaning no contest) to said offense as charged, waive my right to a jury trial or a trial before the Court, and agree to pay the fine and costs the judge assesses. I understand that a plea of no contest has the same force and effect as a plea of guilty. I understand that payment of the fine and costs constitutes satisfaction of the judgment and waiver of the right to appeal. I understand that my plea may result in a conviction appearing on either a criminal record or a driver’s license record.

\_\_\_\_\_ **GUILTY** - I plead guilty to the offense as charged, waive my right to a jury trial or a trial before the Court, and agree to pay the fine and costs the judge assesses. I understand that payment of the fine and costs constitutes satisfaction of the judgment and waiver of the right to appeal. I understand that my plea may result in a conviction appearing on either a criminal record or a driver’s license record.

\_\_\_\_\_ I request the fine and court cost the court will accept and an appeal bond.

\_\_\_\_\_ **REQUEST FOR DEFERRED DISPOSITION** - I request the Judge grant me a deferred disposition so that this criminal offense is not reported on my driving and/or criminal record. Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders are not eligible for a deferred disposition.

**PAYMENT OF FINE & COURT COST**

The Judge is required to determine if you are able to pay fines and court cost. If you are unable to pay, the Judge may allow you alternative means to satisfy your obligations to the Court.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I have a continuing obligation to notify the Court of any changes in my financial status that may hinder my ability to satisfy the judgment or help me satisfy the judgment.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am to notify this Court in writing of any changes to my contact information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the Judge may offer me other ways to pay or earn credit towards my fine and court costs such as community service, installment payments, and/or a partial or complete waiver of fines and court cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the Court's Standard Payment Plan which requires a minimum payment of \$50.00 be made every other Friday until such time as fines and court cost are paid in full.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I pay any part of the fine, costs, or restitution (if applicable) on or after the 31st day after judgment was entered that I am responsible for paying a \$25 time payment fee (Section 133.103, Local Government Code).

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to pay the fine and costs immediately and I request that the Court extend the payment to a later date. I request that the Court grant a time payment plan.

\_\_\_\_\_ I request that I be able to discharge the fine and costs by performing community service, because I have no resources and I am unable to pay the fine and costs.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been determined to be indigent by the federal government and I am receiving or I am eligible to receive assistance under a federal program.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read this document. I understand this document and I freely and willingly enter a plea as stated herein. **I understand that submitting false financial information to the Court constitutes the crime of tampering with a governmental record, punishable by incarceration and/or the imposition of a fine (Section 37.10, Penal Code).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City / State / Zip*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone Number*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email*

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