

# **Traffic Court**

Fine Payments may be made in person during regular business hours or by mail.

**Payments Methods:** Cash, Money Order, Certified Check or Credit Card

**NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT**

**NO PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE BY PHONE OR FAX**

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **How Should I Plea to my TRAFFIC TICKET?**

#### **INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**

When the court has received an accusatory instrument alleging that you have committed an offense, you are presumed innocent until proven guilty. You have the right to retain an attorney to represent you now, or at any stage in these proceedings.

You have various procedural options of bringing this matter to a just disposition. You may choose to proceed in any of the following manners, or any other legally authorized manner. You may want to consult an attorney for guidance or representation before determining which course of action you will pursue. **THE COURT MAY NOT PROVIDE YOU WITH A RECOMMENDATION AS TO HOW YOU SHOULD PROCEED, OR AS TO WHICH OF THESE OPTIONS YOU SHOULD CHOOSE.**

#### **YOU MAY:**

##### **Plead Not Guilty.**

By pleading "Not Guilty" you exercise your right to a public trial at which the People Of the State of New York, represented by the prosecution, must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that you have committed the offense alleged in the accusatory instrument. At the trial you will have the right to hear, see and challenge the evidence. Submitted to prove your guilt, including confronting by cross-examination the Police Officer, Peace Officer or other witness or witnesses who testify against you. You have the right to have witnesses testify on your behalf and you may, but you are not required to testify on your own behalf. The court will determine after hearing all the evidence submitted at the trial whether or not the People have proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and will render an appropriate verdict.

##### **Plead Guilty As Charged.**

By pleading "Guilty" you waive your right to a trial at which the People of the State of New York, represented by the prosecution, must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you committed the offense alleged in the accusatory instrument. A Plea of Guilty will

subject you to sentencing by the judge presiding, to any legally authorized sentence. You may withdraw, with the court's permission, your plea of guilty at any time prior to sentencing and exercise your right to a trial.

Communicate with the Tioga County District Attorney's Office Concerning an Alternative Disposition.

After entering a Plea of "Not Guilty" you will be set for a Conference Date at which time you may contact Cheryl Mancini at the Tioga County District Attorney's Office (607) 206-2864. The District Attorney's Office is responsible for proving the charge or charges against you and might negotiate an agreement allowing you to plead guilty to a legally authorized alternative offense, including a less severe offense or offenses. Any proposed agreement is subject to approval by the court. Upon a plea of guilty to the agreed-upon offense you will be subject to sentencing by the presiding judge to any sentence legally authorized to be imposed for the offense to which you plead guilty.

### **How Do I Reach?**

Tioga County District Attorney's Office	687-8650
Tioga County Public Defender's Office	687-1000
NYS Dept. of Motor Vehicles	1-800-CALL DMV

### **Point Assessment Chart:**

#### **Speeding Violations**

<i>Infractions</i>	Points
Speed over the posted limit	
1-10 mph	3
11-20 mph	4
21-30 mph	6
31-40 mph	8
Greater than 40 mph	11
Speed not reasonable/ Too fast for conditions	3

#### **Moving Violations**

Following to close	4
Passing red light or stop sign	3
Unsafe Lane Change	3
Failure to Yield	3
Improper Passing	3
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	2