

Municipal Court Driving Safety Course

If you are charged with a traffic offense under the Subtitle C, you may request the Court, on or before the initial appearance date to take a driving safety course to have the charge dismissed. This request must be made in person, by counsel, or by mail and must be on or prior to the original court date as noted on your citation.

If you were operating a motorcycle and request to take a driving safety course, you must take a motorcycle operator's training course. Request for a Safety Driving course must be made prior to signing or taking a course. At the time of the request, you must do the following:

- Present valid Texas Driver's License (CDL holders are not eligible for Defensive Driving);

- Present proof of financial responsibility (usually current liability insurance);

- Plead guilty or nolo contendere; and

- Pay court costs and an administration fee.

Prosecution of the traffic offense will be postponed for 90 days to allow you time to complete the course. You are required to attend a driving safety course that has been approved by the Texas Education Agency or a motorcycle operator's course approved by the Department of Public Safety.

You are eligible to request this course if you meet the following conditions:

- Are not currently taking the Driving Safety course for another traffic violation;

- Have not taken a driving safety course within the 12 months preceding the date of the offense;

- Have not committed the offense of speeding 25 mph over the speed limit; and

- Have not committed one of the following offenses:

 - Failure to Give Information at Accident Scene;

 - Leaving Scene of Accident;

 - Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Police Officer;

 - Reckless Driving; or

 - Passing a School Bus.

 - A serious traffic accident;

 - An offense in a construction maintenance work zone when workers were present;

 - Course must be certified by the Texas Education Agency.

Prior to the end of the 90-day period, you must present to the court a copy of the Course Completion Certificate and a certified copy of your driving record from the Department of Public Safety.

If you do not take the course in the time required and/or fail to present the court with any of the required documents, the court will notify you to return to court and explain why you failed. The judge may, but is not required to, allow you to file the proper papers at that time. Your failure to be present at that hearing will result in a conviction, a fine being assessed, and a warrant for your arrest being issued.

JUVENILES:

All juveniles are required to appear in open court for all proceedings in their case(s). The parent of any juvenile charged in municipal court is required to be present in court with his or her child.

