



## CITY OF WHITEHOUSE MUNICIPAL COURT

The options provided below are intended to provide a general overview of the ways you *may* be able to dispose of your citation. Depending on the circumstances of the citation, some of these options may not apply.

### OPTIONS FOR CITATIONS

- OPTION 1: PLEAD GUILTY OR NO CONTEST AND PAY THE FINE
- OPTION 2: REQUEST DEFERRED DISPOSITION
- OPTION 3: REQUEST DRIVER'S SAFETY COURSE
- OPTION 4: PLEAD NOT GUILTY AND REQUEST A COURT DATE

### OPTION 1: PAYMENT

You have the option to pay the fine and court cost in full or request a payment plan. By making a payment or requesting a payment plan, you are waiving your right to appear before the judge and your right to a jury trial. Making a payment or requesting a payment plan will result in a conviction on your driving record.

Payment plan: A \$15 Time Payment Reimbursement fee is added to each violation if the violation is not paid in full within 30 days. An initial payment will be due at the time of your request. The court will allow you (6) months to pay off each violation and your monthly payment of \$50 will be due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month without exception. Missing a monthly payment shall result in being set for a Show Cause Hearing. Failure to report to Show Cause Hearing may result in additional charges.

### OPTION 2: DEFERRED DISPOSITION

Deferred disposition is an option that will keep your citation from being reported as a conviction on your driving record. The citation will be dismissed if all terms required are successfully met. If any requirements are not met, you will be ordered to appear before the Municipal Judge and if you cannot show cause for all unmet requirements at the court hearing, you will be found guilty, and a conviction will be reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Not all violations are eligible for deferred disposition.

#### Requirements for Deferred Disposition:

- The court must receive your request in person no later than 30 days after the citation was issued.
- You must pay all fees and court cost, including a \$25 deferral fee.
- If you are under the age of 25, you must complete a driver safety course as a condition of deferred disposition.
- Proof of valid **Texas DL** and Insurance listing defendant as a covered driver.

#### You Are Not Eligible for Deferred Disposition if:

- You have been approved for deferred disposition in the City of Whitehouse within the last 12 months.
- You hold a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

### OPTION 3: DRIVER'S SAFETY COURSE

Taking a driver's safety course (DSC) is an option that will keep your citation from being reported as a conviction on your driving record. The citation will be dismissed if all terms required are successfully met. If any requirements are not met, you will be ordered to appear before the Municipal Judge and if you cannot show cause for all unmet requirements at the court hearing, you will be found guilty, and a conviction will be reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Not all violations are eligible for dismissal by a driver's safety course.

You may be eligible to take a driver's safety course to have your case dismissed. By law, you may only take one course each year in the State of Texas to have a case dismissed.

#### Requirements of Driver's Safety Course:

- The court must receive your request in person to take the course no later than 30 days after the citation was issued. **This request must be submitted and approved by the court prior to you taking the course.**
- You must pay administrative fees and court costs at the time of your request. Presently, the administrative fees and court costs to take a driver's safety course total \$144.00 or \$169.00 if your citation was issued in a school zone.
- You must present a valid **Texas** driver's license.
- You must present proof of insurance with you listed as a driver.
- You must complete a 6-hour driver's safety course and provide the certificate of completion to the court within 90 days.

#### You Are Not Eligible to Take a Driver's Safety Course if:

- The offense is not defined as a moving violation; or
- You have a commercial driver's license (CDL), even if the violation occurred while you were driving a private vehicle.
- You do not have a valid Texas driver's license; or
- You received a ticket for not having current vehicle liability insurance and you do not provide a copy of the current vehicle liability insurance to the court.
- You were speeding 25 miles per hour or higher over the speed limit; or
- You have been approved for a driver's safety course in the State of Texas within the last 12 months; or
- You have warrant(s) for your arrest.

### OPTION 4: CONTEST THE CHARGE(S)

If you wish to contest any or all charges against you, you may do so by pleading not guilty and requesting a trial by jury or a trial before the court (trial by judge). You will be set for a Pre Trial Hearing. At which time you will be given the opportunity to speak with the Prosecutor and the presiding Municipal Judge to determine if a settlement can be reached prior to trial.

### CONTACT US

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Court Clerk, Alex Anderson at 903-510-7512, [alanderson@whitehousetx.org](mailto:alanderson@whitehousetx.org), or visit our website at [whitehousetx.org](http://whitehousetx.org).