

In the Alpharetta Municipal Court

Information Sheet

Shield of Protection: Innocence. You are Innocent until proven guilty.

Right to a Lawyer. You have the right to have a lawyer help you with your case. If you can not afford an attorney and your charge(s) may involve jail time, you may request one by filling out an indigent form which the Judge will have to approve. If you do not meet the indigent standards, you will have to retain your own attorney.

Jury Trial or Bench Trial. The only kind of trial available in this court is “Bench Trials” presided over by a Judge, no Jury. If you want a “Jury Trial” inform the Clerk when your name is called; your case will be bound over to Fulton County State Court.

Judge’s Role: The Judge is not allowed to be or act as your lawyer. The Judge’s function is to insure that everyone follows the rules of evidence; the Judge must remain fair and neutral.

Solicitor’s Role: The Solicitor is a lawyer and prosecutor who represents The City of Alpharetta. The solicitor is not allowed to give you legal advice. The solicitor can only give you their recommendation as to a possible disposition of the case. You may speak with the solicitor, but you have no obligation to do so, and that the solicitor is not your attorney.

“Plea” & “Announcement” Options:

‘Proof’. This could be three things: (1) You HAD insurance coverage on the day you were stopped but just could not find your insurance card; (2) Your driver’s license was expired when the officer stopped you but have your renewed license with you today, (3) Your expired tag as been renewed *and* you have proof of it today. There will be a \$50 - \$100 processing fee.

‘Re-Set’. (1) (a) You would like to consult with or hire an Attorney or (b) You have some other legal reason (2) If you are under 21 and still under Dad/Mom’s roof and/or insurance, and there is no parent with you, your case will be re-set for you to bring a parent back to court with you.

‘Not Guilty’ – ‘Bench Trial’. You disagree with the charge against you, and request a trial before the Judge. We will reset your case to another day and subpoena the officer for your bench trial.

‘Nolo Contendere’. The Judge must agree to allow you to enter a ‘Nolo’ plea, and you can only have one ‘Nolo’ plea every five (5) years. A ‘Nolo’ plea will avoid ‘points’ going on your driving record, but your Insurance Company will still be able to see this charge on your driver’s history.

‘Guilty’. You understand and admit that you were at fault.

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This is not to be considered legal advice. For legal advice please consult an attorney.

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