

INFORMATIONAL PACKET FOR TRAFFIC REDUCTIONS

IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

For: Individuals Charged with Traffic Infractions Pending in City/Town/Village Courts

An accusatory instrument, alleging that you have committed an offense, has been filed with the court. You are presumed innocent until proven guilty. You have the right to a trial in this matter. You have the right to retain an attorney to represent you now, or at any stage in these proceedings. However, unless charges with a misdemeanor, you are not entitled to an assigned attorney.

You have various procedural options in the court of bringing this matter to a just disposition. You may choose to proceed in one of the following legally authorized manners. You may want to consult with an attorney for guidance or representation before determining which of these courses of action you will pursue but you are not required to do so. Neither the court nor this office may provide you a recommendation as to how to proceed, or which of these options you should choose.

YOU MAY:

1. PLEAD NOT GUILTY

By pleading “not guilty” you will exercise your right to a public trial. The People of the State of New York, represented by the District Attorney’s Office (the prosecution), must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you have committed the offense(s) alleged in the accusatory instrument(s) (ie: tickets). At trial, you will have the right to hear, see, and challenge any evidence submitted to prove your guilt. This includes confronting and cross-examining witnesses (police or peace officers, or any other witness who may testify against you). You also have the right to call witnesses on your behalf to testify. You may, but are not required to, testify in your own behalf. After hearing all of the evidence submitted at the trial, the Court determines whether or not the People have proven your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and renders a verdict.

2. PLEAD GUILTY

By pleading “guilty” you waive your right to a trial where the People would have to prove you guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. A plea of “guilty” will subject you to any legally authorized sentence by the judge. Only with the court’s permission and prior to sentencing, may you withdraw your plea of “guilty”. If your plea of “guilty” is withdrawn, you may exercise either your right to trial or negotiate an alternative disposition with the District Attorney’s Office.

3. NEGOTIATE AN ALTERNATIVE DISPOSITION WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

You may attempt to negotiate an alternative disposition (plea bargain) with the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office. All traffic reduction requests must be handled through the internet. You must first go to the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office website at:

to determine if you are eligible to take the traffic safety course and receive a reduction in your charges. Once determining that you are eligible, you must take the traffic safety course by clicking on the link. The course requires a one-time fee of \$50.00. Once you have completed the course, a traffic reduction form will be emailed to you. It is your responsibility to fill the form out and mail it back to the court. ****DO NOT MAIL ANYTHING TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE UNLESS REQUIRED TO DO SO****

*****THIS COURSE MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN 5 DAYS OF RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION*****

Once the court receives the plea reduction form and has approved of the disposition, you will then be subject to any legally authorized sentence which is imposed by the Court.

*****PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU FAIL TO SEND IN THE SIGNED FORM TO THE COURT OR FAIL TO APPEAR OR PAY FINES, THE COURT MAY SUSPEND YOUR LICENSE*****