

PLEA OF NOT GUILTY – TRIAL BY JUDGE OR TRIAL BY JURY

A plea of Not Guilty means that you deny guilt of the offense and wish for a trial by either judge or jury. The court will request that you plea in writing and your right to have a trial by jury or wish to have a trial by judge.

After a plea of Not Guilty is made, you will be scheduled on the pre-trial docket to meet with the Tarrant County Assistant District Attorney. At this meeting, they will discuss with you:

- any options you may have to dispose of your citation
- any pre-trial discovery requests can be made

If at the pre-trial hearing a plea bargain cannot be made, then your case will be scheduled on the trial docket. If you chose to have a trial by jury, the court will summon 14 prospective jurors where 6 of the 14 are chosen as jurors to hear the case and render judgment.

If you chose to have a trial by judge, then the judge will hear the details of the case and render judgment.

If your case was set on the trial docket you have the right to change your plea to “No Contest” or “Guilty” prior to the start of the trial.

If you are found Not Guilty at trial, the fine and costs are cleared and the case is disposed.

If you are found Guilty at trial, you will be assessed a fine (minimum and maximum fine ranges vary depending on offense) and costs. You can either pay the fine at the time of trial or request your payment options. The judgment will be reported as a conviction on your driving record.

After a conviction, you have 10 days to appeal. You will have to contact a traffic attorney to assist you with the filing of your appeal.