

Monona Municipal Court

Welcome to Monona Municipal Court. If you are scheduled for an Initial Appearance and your ticket **DOES NOT** indicate a **Mandatory Appearance**, you may enter a plea in writing by ground mail, e-mail or fax, rather than come in for your court appearance. If your ticket indicates a Mandatory Appearance, you must come in for court on your scheduled date or be subject to increased penalties.

Please direct your written plea to the Monona Clerk of Court at either:

Clerk of Court, 5211 Schluter Road, Monona, WI 53716

tharrell@ci.monona.wi.us

Fax: 608-222-4196

You should indicate in your written plea that you wish to enter a Plea of; **Not Guilty, Guilty** or **No Contest**.

If you plead Not Guilty, that will not be held against you in any way. We will schedule your case for a pretrial with the City Attorney to see if you can resolve the matter. Should the case not be resolved after pretrial, we'll set it for a trial.

If you plead Guilty or No Contest, the Judge will review the facts of your case, find you guilty and impose an appropriate penalty. On A plea of Guilty or No Contest, you are giving up your right to a trial, your right to subpoena witnesses to testify at that trial, as well as your own right to testify, or not. A plea of No Contest is similar to a guilty plea, but a conviction from a No Contest plea can't be used against you in a civil action, such as maybe involved if the citation arose from a traffic accident.

In your written plea you may also include a brief statement indicating any mitigating circumstances and/or preferences as to point or cost reductions you would like to the Judge to consider. Simple requests will be considered immediately. Complicated requests will be treated as a set-over request and a future, in person appearance at the court will be scheduled. You are not, however, required to include anything beyond your plea of Not Guilty, Guilty or No Contest.

People facing traffic offenses should understand that you **will** lose demerit points upon conviction of most traffic offenses. If you accumulate more than 12 points in any one-year period, you will lose your license to drive in Wisconsin for a certain period of time. If you are interested in having your points reduced, the city has made a standing motion that the Judge can amend certain traffic tickets. If you have a good driving record – usually 3 or fewer violation in the past several years, the court can reduce: a 1-10 mph, 3-point Speeding ticket to a 2-point Defective Speedometer charge; a 11-19 mph over, 4-point ticket to a 3 point, 9 over; a 20-29 mph over, 6-point ticket to a 4 point, 19 over. The court can amend a 4-point Inattentive Driving to a 3 point Following Too Close. Driving Too Fast For Conditions or Impudent Speed, 4 pointers, can be reduced to 3-point Speeding tickets. If you are more interested in the money penalty than the points, the points can remain the same and sometimes the \$ penalty can be reduced several steps, but sometimes it's already at the minimum. If you have a ticket other than this, want a better deal or have more than 3 tickets in the past several years and want to try for a reduction, you should plead Not Guilty and talk to the City Attorney at a Pretrial.

If the Court imposes a forfeiture, you will have 60 days to pay. If you are unable to pay or can show that you are on some form of public assistance, please contact the Monona Clerk of Court and we can set up a payment plan or grant more time for you. If you comply with the plan, your license will not be suspended and you will not risk possible incarceration or other further penalty.