

DRIVING SAFETY COURSE OPTIONS

You may be able to request this charge be dismissed by successfully completing a Driving Safety Course (DSC) or a motorcycle operator training course, as appropriate. You will lose that right if, on or before your appearance date, you do not provide the Court with notice of your request to take the course. Please read this information carefully and follow the instructions if you wish to take a driving safety course. Contact the Court before your **due date** if you have any questions.

1. Only those persons holding a valid Texas driver's license, those who are a member of the United States military forces serving on active duty, or those who are the spouse or dependent child of a member serving on active duty are eligible for this option; the DSC must be approved by the Texas Education Agency.
2. **You are NOT eligible for the DSC option if:**
 - a. Your offense occurred in a construction zone with workers present
 - b. You were speeding 25 MPH or more above the posted speed limit
 - c. Your speed was 95 MPH or more
 - d. You hold a commercial driver's license (CDL)
3. The Court may dismiss only one charge for each completion of a DSC. *Any additional violation(s) on your citation must be resolved by the due date.*
4. If you are eligible for the DSC option, complete the Affidavit on the reverse side of these instructions and return it to the appropriate court, with a **\$112 Money Order or Cashier's Check** payable to "Justice Court", along with **Proof of Liability Insurance**. *Personal checks are not accepted.*
5. Your request may be submitted either in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, *on or before the appearance (due) date* on your citation. Mailed requests must be postmarked *on or before the due date* to be approved by the Court.
6. If you qualify for the DSC option, you are allowed 90 days from the due date on the citation to:
 - a. Complete the DSC and submit the original certificate of completion to the appropriate Court.
 - b. Present to the Court a copy of your driving record, which may be obtained from the website: <https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/forms/dr-1.pdf>, or by contacting the Driver License Bureau in Austin at 512/424-2600, or P.O. Box 15999, Austin, Texas, 78761-5999.

Extensions are not permitted.
7. Please detach and retain the portion of this letter containing each Court's address and telephone number. You will need this information when you forward your certificate of completion and driving record to the appropriate Court.
8. *Meeting these requirements is solely your responsibility. The Court will not contact you unless there is a conflict with any requirement set forth in the Affidavit.*

COURTESY LETTER

Taylor County Justice Courts

www.taylorcountytexas.org

Precinct 1-1: 325-674-1338
Mike McAuliffe
Old Courthouse, 301 Oak St., #611
Abilene, TX 79602-1526

Precinct 2: 325-928-5114
Robert (Bob) Jones
P.O. Box 225
Merkel, TX 79536

Precinct 3: 325-554-7893
Bobby Shea
P.O. Box 361
Tuscola, TX 79562

Precinct 1-2: 325-674-1267
Sparky Dean
Old Courthouse, 301 Oak St., #612
Abilene, TX 79602-1698

Precinct 4: 325-583-2341
Frank Cleveland
P.O. Box 5
Lawn, TX 79530

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

YOUR SIGNATURE on the traffic citation you received is a legal commitment to appear before the Court. This may be done in person, or by signing and mailing this letter to the appropriate Court. If you do not respond on or before the appearance (due) date noted on the bottom of your citation, a FAILURE TO APPEAR charge, which carries an additional FINE OF UP TO \$500, will be filed against you. Warrants will be issued for your arrest and your driver's license will not be renewed.

If you hold an out-of-state driver's license, failure to comply with this citation could result in suspension of your driver's license in your home state.

NOT GUILTY: You desire a trial, with or without a jury. Mail this letter and a copy of the citation to the appropriate Court. The Court will, in turn, notify you by mail of your court date. You must be present in court at the time and date set for your trial, or warrants for your arrest may be issued.

GUILTY OR NO CONTEST: Either plea you make indicates you agree to waive appearance for trial. Enter a plea, sign and date this letter, and mail it with a **Money Order or Cashier's Check** for the amount shown on the reverse side of this page under the fine schedule. *Personal checks are not accepted.*

ENTER YOUR PLEA BELOW

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **NOT GUILTY** and waive my right to a trial by jury. *I request a trial by Judge.*

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **NOT GUILTY** and request a *jury trial.*

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **GUILTY** and *waive my right to a trial.*

_____ I hereby enter a plea of **NO CONTEST** and *waive my right to a trial by jury.*

Date

Signature of Violator

TAYLOR COUNTY JUSTICE COURT FINE SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below to determine the amount of your fine. Remit payment by **Money Order or Cashier's Check ONLY** to the appropriate Court. Contact the Court if your violation is not listed.

If you were speeding up to 15 MPH over the posted speed limit*, your fine is \$112 + \$5 per mile over the posted speed limit. Example: if you were ticketed for 80 MPH in a 70 MPH zone, your fine would be \$112 + \$50 (\$5 x 10 MPH over the limit) which equals \$162. **This fine formula only applies to speeding violations up thru 15 MPH over the posted speed limit.**

| | |
|--|-------|
| Speeding 16 to 20 MPH over Posted Speed Limit* | \$222 |
| Speeding 21 MPH and over Posted Speed Limit* | \$302 |
| Unsafe or Failure to Control Speed* | \$202 |
| Expired Motor Vehicle Inspection..... | \$152 |
| Registration or Equipment violations (lights, horn, etc.)..... | \$152 |
| No Driver's License (First Offense)..... | \$269 |
| Other Driver's License Violations..... | \$152 |
| Fail to Drive in a Single Lane/Lane Change Violations*..... | \$202 |
| Stop Sign or Light / Right of Way Violations* | \$182 |
| Adult Seat Belt Violations..... | \$152 |
| Unrestrained Child (First Offense)*..... | \$182 |
| Possession of Drug Paraphernalia..... | \$202 |
| Open Container-Alcohol..... | \$302 |
| Driving While License Invalid (DWLI) (First Offense)..... | \$369 |
| Diving While License Invalid (DWLI) (Second Offense)..... | \$569 |
| Fail to Maintain Liability Insurance (First Offense)..... | \$362 |

A citation for this violation may be dismissed if you provide the Court with proof that you had insurance at the time the citation was issued. A conviction for No Liability Insurance may result in suspension of your driver's license and an assessment of a surcharge under the Driver Responsibility Program.

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

*Effective September 1, 2003, the State of Texas adopted a program that assigns points to a person's driver's license for certain moving violations. Two (2) points are assigned for each conviction arising out of a separate transaction, three (3) points if the violation resulted in an accident.

Additional information can be found in Chapter 708 of the State of Texas Transportation Code.

Revised January 9, 2015

DRIVING SAFETY COURSE REQUEST

The following Affidavit must be signed and notarized before the court will consider your request. Payment must be in the form of a Money Order or Cashier's Check; no personal checks will be accepted.

AFFIDAVIT

Before me on this date personally appeared the undersigned, who after being sworn, or affirmed, on oath, deposes and says that in compliance with Section 45.051 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure:

1. I HEREBY ENTER A PLEA OF NO CONTEST to the offense charged, waive a jury trial and ask the Court to grant me 90 days to send proof that I have completed a driving safety course approved by the Texas Education Agency, along with a copy of my driving record as obtained from the State of Texas.
2. I understand that I must submit this request with a non-refundable fee of \$112, payable only by money order or cashier's check, on or before the appearance date on my citation.
3. I have a valid Texas Driver's license or permit, or am a member of the United States military forces, or the spouse or dependent child of a member, serving on active duty.
4. I have not taken a driving safety course within the 12 months preceding the date of the offense charged for the purpose of dismissing a traffic citation in the State of Texas, nor am I currently enrolled in a driving safety course under this section.
5. I understand that I must provide the Court with **Proof of Liability Insurance** coverage (or financial responsibility), as required by Chapter 601 of the Texas Transportation Code, when I submit my request.
6. I understand that if I am a provisional license holder, I must take a driver license examination with the Texas Department of Public Safety. (A fee of \$10 will be charged for the Examination.)

SIGNED THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 20_____.

DEFENDANT

On the above date, the Defendant appeared and swore, or affirmed, on Affidavit, under oath, that the information set forth herein is true and correct.

(Seal)

Notary Public, State of Texas