

## Court Sessions

In Municipal Court your first appearance is referred to as an Arraignment. At this time you will be called upon to enter a plea (or answer) to the charge (Traffic or Misdemeanor preferred against you. Court is considered a priority over other activities and you are expected to appear at your scheduled court date.

- You may plead Guilty indicating that you admit you have committed the offense and wish to waive your right to a trial; or
- No Contest indicating that you do not admit the charge but do not wish to contest the charge; or
- Not Guilty indicating to the court that you wish to contest the charge and are exercising your right to a trial.
- Should you plead Guilty or No Contest the case proceed immediately to sentencing and you will receive your final judgment.
- Should you plead Not Guilty you will receive a trial date; depending upon the charge you will be scheduled for 30-60 days from you arraignment date.

**Please be prepared to pay your obligations in-full on the day of your sentencing.** A payment agreement is a possibility in some circumstances. Failure to appear for these court event(s) will result in contempt of court charge and a warrant could be issued for your arrest.

Failure to appear for your Arraignment will result in a disposition of Failure to Appear and reset notice being mailed to the address provided by the defender. Failure to appear on the reset date will result in a notice being sent to the Department of Public Safety requesting suspension of your Driver's License. An option for you to remedy your failure to appear is to attend court on the scheduled Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Should you fail to appear for your trial, the case may be tried in your absence (TIA). If you are found guilty in your absence, a warrant will be issued for your arrest. Your judgment letter and a TIA letter will be mailed to the address in your court record and collection efforts will proceed.

### **Payment of parking and traffic tickets**

Mississippi law allows for prepayment of most traffic tickets prior the court date. Please refer to the back of your uniform citation for more information. Should you receive a payable infraction citation, and pay in-full on or before the court date provided; you need not appear in court.

Payment is due in-full on or before the date provided for all citation. If you dispute this citation, please appear on the court date provided. Failure to timely respond or appear for these payable infractions will result in a trial in your absence (TIA) and collections efforts will proceed by the court or collection agency.

