

AVON MAYOR'S COURT
36080 Chester Road
Avon, Ohio 44011

Good Morning. My name is Thomas C. Stringer, and it is my duty to act as the Magistrate of the Avon Mayor's Court. You are in Court this morning as a result of being charged with violating either an Avon Ordinance or some other legal regulation. It is my desire that you be fully informed of your rights and that every person here receives fair and impartial treatment.

I am sure that you have read a copy of the affidavit which states the nature of the charge against you. You have the right to secure legal counsel to represent you in this case. If you do not have counsel, you have the right to request a continuance to secure a lawyer. Every person has the right to make his or her own defense without counsel, but if you are in doubt as to your proper course, you should consult with legal counsel.

The Bailiff of the court will call your name. Please step forward to the Bench when called, bringing this sheet with you. If you are charged with a traffic offense, please have your driver's license and proof of insurance ready. You will then be asked which plea you wish to enter. You may enter one of three pleas: Guilty, Not Guilty, or No Contest.

If you believe the charge filed against you is proper, and that you did what you are charged, then enter a plea of Guilty. You will then be afforded the opportunity to explain to the Court any extenuating circumstances, after which the Court will impose a sentence.

If you feel you are not guilty of the charge, or that there is something substantially wrong with the charge filed against you, enter a plea of Not Guilty. A Mayor's Court cannot hear a contested case; therefore, a plea of Not Guilty will result in the transfer of your case to the Avon Lake Municipal Court. The Avon Lake Municipal Court will notify you by mail within seven to ten days as to when and where to appear. This Court may, at its discretion, require a bond for your appearance in the Avon Lake Municipal Court.

You may also enter a plea of No Contest. A plea of No Contest cannot be used as an admission of guilt or responsibility by you in a subsequent civil action such as a lawsuit following a traffic accident. If you enter a plea of No Contest to the charge, the Court can find you guilty on a simple explanation of the circumstances. DO NOT enter a plea of No Contest if you feel you are Not Guilty. In almost every instance a finding of Guilty is made when a No Contest plea is entered.

If you feel that the Magistrate, the Judge in this Court, cannot render a fair and impartial decision in your case then notify the Court that you want your case to be transferred to the Avon Lake Municipal Court and such transfer will be made. The Court may, at its discretion, make a motion and transfer your case to the Avon Lake Municipal Court.

This Court requires all fines and costs assessed must be paid in full before leaving Court today. If you have a problem paying, please ask for time to pay from the Magistrate. Please be advised it is not required by the court to allow payments. It is a courtesy. Failure to comply with the Court's order to pay could result in a Bench Warrant being issued and/or your license being suspended. This Court accepts cash, local checks and Visa, MasterCard and Discover as payment for fines and costs.

Signature of Defendant

Date