

## Municipal Court

The municipal court decides cases involving alleged violations of city ordinances, motor vehicle laws, and certain disorderly persons' offenses.

### What rights do you have in the Municipal Court?

1. You have the **RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF THE CHARGES** against you.
2. You have the **RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT** concerning the charges against you and anything you say may be held against you.
3. You may plead **GUILTY or NOT GUILTY** to certain **NON-INDICTABLE** charges against you, such as traffic offenses, disorderly person offenses and ordinances.

If you are charged with an **INDICTABLE** offense, the Municipal Judge cannot ask for your plea because you have the right to a probable cause hearing before a Superior Court Judge and a trial by jury at the County level if the Grand Jury indicts you.

However, certain **INDICTABLE** offenses may be tried by the Municipal Judge if you waive indictment and a trial by jury in writing, and the County Prosecutor consents. You have the right to be informed if you have been charged with such an offense

4. You have the right to **RETAIN AN ATTORNEY**.
5. You have the **RIGHT TO BE ASSIGNED AN ATTORNEY** if:
  - (a) You are charged with an **INDICTABLE** offense and the State Public Defender determines that you cannot afford an attorney, or
  - (b) You are charged with a **NON-INDICTABLE** offense and the Judge determines you cannot afford an attorney and there is a likelihood that if you are convicted you will either go to jail, receive a substantial fine or your driver's license will be suspended.
6. You have the right to obtain a **REASONABLE POSTPONEMENT** so that you may have an opportunity to consult with your attorney and prepare a proper defense.
7. You are **PRESUMED TO BE INNOCENT** until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
8. You have the **RIGHT TO TESTIFY or NOT TESTIFY** in your behalf.
9. You have the **RIGHT TO CALL or SUBPOENA** witnesses in your behalf.

**Every person has the right to make their own defense without an attorney. However, if you are in doubt as to your proper course, it is recommended that you consult with an experienced attorney.**

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### Contact Us

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