

## Basic Rights/ Pleas Form



### BASIC RIGHTS:

If you appear in Mayor's Court in the Village of South Zanesville, you should know your basic rights as a defendant in Court. They are:

- A.) To know the nature of the charge that has been filed against you.
- B.) To know the identity of the person making charge against you.
- C.) To see and read the affidavit filed against you.
- D.) To have legal counsel represent you. If you would like a continuance to talk to an attorney, please ask for it before entering a plea. If you cannot afford legal counsel, ask to have your case transferred to the Muskingum County Municipal Court to determine if you are eligible for a public defender.
- E.) To have a trial by jury in the Muskingum County Municipal Court, where provided by law, if a written demand for one is made.
- F.) You are not required to make any statements about this charge against you. Any statements you make can and will be used against you.

### PLEAS:

- A.) **GUILTY** – the plea of guilty is a complete admission of your guilt.
- B.) **NO CONTEST** – the plea of no contest is not an admission of guilt, but is an admission of the truth of the facts alleged in the ticket or complaint. Such plea of admission shall not be used against the defendant in any subsequent civil or criminal proceeding. Upon the entering of a No Contest Plea, the Mayor will listen to any information you wish to **briefly represent**, and review the allegations contained within the complaint. If he/she finds that the allegations do properly state the offense charged, he/she will enter a guilty finding.
- C.) **NOT GUILTY** – the plea of not guilty is a denial of legal guilt, and your case will be set for trial on a subsequent court date.

### PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INSURANCE:

A defendant who is charged with a traffic offense shall either present to the police officer at the time of the alleged offense or the Court at the time of his/her appearance proof of financial responsibility covering the operation of the vehicle at the time of the offense.

If you do not have proof of financial responsibility, covering your operation of the vehicle in question, or if you had proof of financial responsibility, but fail to show it either to the officer or Clerk of Court by the end of your case, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will send you notification of the same to the address on your driver's license and give you another opportunity to prove financial responsibility. Failure to provide proof to the Bureau within 30 days will result in a 90 day suspension of your license, imposed by the Bureau.

**"If you are not a citizen of the United States, you are hereby advised that the conviction of the offense to which you are pleading guilty (or no contest when applicable) may result in deportation, exclusion from admission to the United States, or denial of naturalization pursuant to the laws of the United States."** If you would like a continuance to discuss this with an attorney, please ask for it.

**APPEAL:** Within 10 days from the date that the Mayor or Magistrate renders judgment, you may appeal that decision by filing a written notice of appeal with the Mayor's Court clerk.

**\*\*\*All Fines & Costs Must Be Paid Upon Final Disposition of the Defendant's Case\*\*\***

***Mayor's Court • Village of South Zanesville, Ohio • 24 East Main Street • South Zanesville, Ohio 43701***