

Court Appearances:

You are required to make a court appearance if you wish to plead not guilty on a misdemeanor charge or plead guilty with an explanation at the date and time indicated on the front of your ticket. Please check with Court Administration on the 3rd floor of the Chisago County Government Center. You will be given instructions and directions to the appropriate courtroom.

Rights Advisory:

When the Judge enters the courtroom, he or she will read to you your statutory rights as follows:

You have the right to:

1. an attorney in certain cases
2. remain silent
3. a written statement of the charges against you in certain cases
4. right to a jury/court trial in certain cases
5. to confront and question witnesses against you and to subpoena witnesses to testify on your behalf

WARNING

If you fail to pay your fine or appear in court as directed, YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE MAY BE SUSPENDED, FINES REFFERED TO A COLLECTIONS AGENCY AND/OR A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST MAY BE ISSUED.

County Prosecutor:

If you wish to speak with the prosecutor you must attend the court date given on your ticket or citation. An attorney from the County Attorney's Office will be present during court but may not have the opportunity to speak to you at length during the proceedings.

Please be aware that the prosecutor represents the State and therefore, is not there to represent your interests. Also, be aware that if you are represented by an attorney the prosecutor can not speak to you without your attorney.

Fine Payment after Sentencing:

If you have pled guilty or are found guilty and ordered to pay a fine, it is assumed that you will pay the same day as your hearing, unless the court has ordered other arrangements. We also wish to advise you that there are additional fees and surcharges that the Legislature has required that we impose. These fees are forwarded to the State and used to pay victims of crimes and provide police officer training among other things.

Chisago County Probation:

After you have appeared in court and have been sentenced, you may be referred to Court Services if additional conditions were imposed. Please follow the instructions given to you in court.

Important Telephone Numbers:

- Court Administration..... (651) 213-8650
- Chisago County Warrants..... (651) 257-4100
- Department of Public Safety..... (651) 296-2221
- County Attorney's Office (651) 213-8400
- Probation/Court Services..... (651) 213-8350
- Fine Payment Information.....1-800-657-3611
- Or (651) 281-3219

You've Received A Ticket/Citation In Chisago County

Here's what will occur next.

**Chisago County
Court Administration
313 N. Main St.
Center City, MN 55012**

Criminal/Traffic Information (651) 213-8650

**Fine Payment Information
1-800-657-3611 or
651-281-3219 (metro)**

REVISED 9/06/2013

You have just been issued a ticket in Chisago County. This ticket is the document charging you with a Petty Misdemeanor or a Misdemeanor.

What is a Petty Misdemeanor?

The maximum fine for a Petty Misdemeanor is \$300.00. A Petty Misdemeanor is not a crime and therefore carries no jail time. You may be represented by an attorney hired at your own expense. If you wish to plead not guilty, you are entitled to a court trial. A court trial is a trial by a judge without a jury. **Your trial will not be held the same day as your first appearance.**

What is a Misdemeanor?

A Misdemeanor is a crime and consequently a more serious offense. The maximum penalty is \$1000.00 and/or 90 days in jail. If you cannot afford an attorney to represent you, you may apply for the services of a public defender. However, you will need to provide financial information to determine if you are eligible for such an appointment. You also have the right to a written statement of the charges against you. A written statement is a formal complaint sworn to before a judge containing the facts of the charges. If you wish to plead not guilty, you are entitled to a jury trial. A jury trial would consist of six persons and all six persons would have to agree that you are guilty before you could be convicted and sentenced.

Payable Fines

Many fines are payable without the need for a court appearance. You may be able to determine your fine amount by reading the following schedule of fines and fees, or the officer may have quoted a fine amount. This is only a partial listing of payable offenses. **Please wait at least ten days after your ticket is received before calling to receive a fine amount.** This will allow time for the officer to submit the ticket for filing.

Court Administration or Minnesota State Payment Center staff cannot quote fine amounts on tickets that have not yet been filed.

Please note that these are examples of fines payable without a court appearance. Please read further for conditions which cause the matter to require a court appearance.

MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Handicapped parking | \$280.00 |
| Fail to use seat belt..... | 105.00 |
| Fail to use child restraint..... | 130.00 |
| Parking..... | 37.00 |

SPEED VIOLATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1-10 miles over limit..... | \$120.00 |
| 11-14 miles over limit..... | 130.00 |
| 15-19 miles over limit..... | 140.00 |

Effective August 1, 2005 speeds of 20 miles per hour and over are assessed a base fine according to applicable Minnesota statute plus a special speeding surcharge equal to the base fine, making the fine double.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 20-25 miles over limit..... | \$220.00 |
| 26-30 miles over limit..... | 280.00 |
| 31 & over miles over limit..... | 380.00 |

MOVING VIOLATIONS

| | |
|---|----------|
| Traffic control signal or stop sign..... | \$130.00 |
| Unreasonable acceleration/exhibition driving... | 120.00 |
| Over center line, lane usage, turning, backing and passing..... | 130.00 |
| Failure to yield right of way..... | 130.00 |
| Follow too closely..... | 130.00 |
| Drive without corrective lenses..... | 130.00 |
| No two-wheel endorsement..... | 130.00 |
| Expired drivers license or instruction permit.... | 180.00 |
| No current registration..... | 110.00 |

Fines listed above include a \$75.00 surcharge and a \$5.00 law library fee.

Only one surcharge & law library fee will be assessed per ticket.

Paying Your Fine

If paying your fine by mail, DO NOT SEND CASH. Make your check or money order payable to "Minnesota Court Payment Center." **Mail the payment to: Minnesota Court Payment Center, P.O. Box 898, Willmar, MN 56201.** Please include your file number or citation number on your check. **You may pay your fine over the telephone by calling 1-800-657-3611 or (651) 281-3219 or on the web at www.mncourts.gov.** Your payment must be received 48 hours before the scheduled court appearance indicated on the front side of your ticket.

IMPORTANT:

BY PAYING YOUR CITATION, YOU ARE ENTERING A PLEA OF "GUILTY" TO THE OFFENSE. PAYING CERTAIN FINES MAY SUSPEND OR REVOKE YOUR DRIVING PRIVILEGES. IF IN DOUBT, CONSULT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 651-296-2221.

If paying in person, payments can be made at Court Administration, located on the third floor of the Government Center at 313 N. Main St., Center City, Minnesota. **Office hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you are unable to make your payment during these hours, there is a ticket payment "drop box" located at the Government Center front door.**

If you fail to pay your fine or appear in Court as directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest or your driver's license may be suspended.

You must appear in court if:

1. you wish to plead not guilty, and you are charged with a misdemeanor;
2. you wish to plead guilty, but offer an explanation;
3. you have posted bail or bond;
4. **If you are unsure whether or not you must appear in court, contact Court Administration at (651) 213-8650.**