

Law HB351 and SB 1913

ALTERNATIVES TO THE FULL PAYMENT OF ANY FINE OR COST: If you are financially unable to pay a fine and/or court costs in full (one payment), there are other options, such as time-payment plans and community service hours instead of paying the fine and court costs. In certain situation in which a person cannot perform community service and is also Indigent and unable to pay out their fine and court costs on a time payment plan the Court will hear evidence about your financial situation to help resolve this matter and may even reduce the fine and court costs or eliminate them completely, depending on the severity of your financial situation.

CONSEQUENCES IF YOUR FAIL TO APPEAR IN COURT: Issuance of Criminal Warrants for your Arrest and “Wanted” Status Reported to Law Enforcement Agencies; Some cases are turned over to a Collection Agency which will add 30% of all fees and fines assessed if you are found guilty of this offense; the filing of additional criminal charges such as Failure to Appear”, a hold being placed on renewal of your Driver’s License and/or Vehicle Registration Renewal; and you will be subject to immediate arrest if law enforcement officials stop you on the street, in any public place, or at your place of employment or your residence.

THIS COURT OFFERS YOU A “SAFE HARBOR” TO TURN YOURSELF IN ON CLASS C WARRANTS ISSUED BY THIS COURT: Before the passage of Senate Bill 1913, in order to promote justice, ensure due process and the equal treatment of all persons, some of whom may be indigent or facing financial hardships, and to help clear outstanding arrest warrants and capiases, this court instituted a policy that it will not arrest or jail any person who voluntarily surrenders themselves to this court on warrants issued by our court, if you make a good-faith effort to resolve the case before you are arrested and the warrant is executed. In other words, if you have active Class C misdemeanor warrants issued by this court and you voluntarily come in to court YOU WILL NOT BE ARRESTED, THE WARRANT(S) WILL BE RECALLED, AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COURT DATE TO SPEAK TO THE JUDGE ABOUT YOUR CASE, WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or if you know that you cannot appear on the date set in this letter, contact the court immediately so that we can provide you with a new court date. If you wish to take a Driver Safety Class (Defensive Driving class) and you are eligible or you wish to waive your right to trial, to legal counsel, and discovery and enter a plea of “No Contest” and pay the fine and court costs, without having to appear in court, please fill out, sign, and return the appropriate enclosed form when responding via mail, fax, or via email.

Signature Court Clerk