



COURT DAY CHEAT SHEET

Illinois Traffic Court – Pro Se

Prepared by Fiscella Law LLC | Criminal & DUI Defense

Call: 630-708-6690 | **Website:** defendil.com

This guide is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Do NOT use for DUI, Reckless Driving, School Zone Speeding, CDL matters, or any case involving jail or license suspension.

NIGHT BEFORE COURT

- Review your ticket, charge, and court location.
- Organize evidence and make three copies.
- Decide your goal: dismissal, reduction, or supervision.

WHAT TO BRING

- Ticket and paperwork.
- Evidence and copies.
- Pen and paper.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- Arrive early and check in with the clerk.
- Observe other cases quietly.

WHEN YOUR CASE IS CALLED

- Stand and address the judge respectfully.
- Speak slowly and answer only what is asked.

IF YOU GO TO TRIAL

- The State presents first.
- Listen carefully and take notes.
- Cross-examine with short yes/no questions.

WHAT TO SAY – SAMPLE SCRIPTS

When your case is called:

“Good morning, Your Honor.”

Entering a plea:

“Not guilty, Your Honor.”

Requesting supervision:

“Your Honor, if the Court is inclined to find me guilty, I respectfully request court supervision.”

Closing statement:

"Your Honor, the State has not met its burden of proof. I respectfully request a finding of not guilty."

IMPORTANT: Do not add extra words. Silence is often better than explanation.

PHRASES TO AVOID

✗ "I was speeding but..." ✗ "I didn't mean to..." ✗ "Everyone does it..." ✗ "I feel like..."

SAFE PHRASES

✓ "Yes, Your Honor." ✓ "No, Your Honor." ✓ "I do not recall." ✓ "I respectfully disagree."

Questions? Call **630-708-6690** or visit **defendil.com** before court.

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