

Resolving the Ticket

Most situations can be handled by the clerk at the service window.

1st:

Plea to the Offense

After you are issued a ticket, you must enter a plea to the court on or before the appearance date located at the bottom of your ticket. Only the person who received the ticket can enter a plea to the offense. There are three plea options to choose from:

1. **No contest (Nolo Contendere)** – A plea of No contest means that you do not contest the offense filed against you and waive your right to a trial by judge or jury.
2. **Guilty** – By entering a plea of Guilty you admit that the act/offense is prohibited by law, that you committed the act/offense, and waive your right to trial by judge or jury.
3. **Not Guilty** – A plea of Not Guilty means that you are informing the court that you deny guilt to the offense in which you are accused.

2nd:

If you qualify, you may ask the court to defer judgment, allowing you time to comply and complete a Driver's Safety Course and/or a Deferred Disposition Order (probationary period with court restrictions) to have the ticket dismissed; otherwise, payment in full is required.

If ordered to pay a fine and costs, and you cannot pay in full, notify the court immediately. If you are determined by the court to have insufficient resources or income, the court is required to provide you with alternatives to discharge the amount due (payment plans, community service, etc.).

Appeal the Judgment

If you are found guilty and are not satisfied with the judgment of the court, you have the right to appeal the court's decision. The Roman Forest Municipal Court is a court of non-record, an appeal will be sent to the Montgomery County Court as a "trial de novo," which means the case is tried over again at the county level as if the trial in municipal court never occurred.

To appeal your case, you must give notice of appeal and post an appeal bond to the municipal court within 10 calendar days of the judgment. The amount of the appeal bond is twice the amount of the fine and court costs. Once the municipal court receives the appeal, the case will be sent to the county court for processing and you will receive notice of a court date from the county court.

What happens if I do not make a plea or ignore my ticket?

If you fail to appear or plea to the offense(s) charged on the ticket, a warrant may be issued for your arrest. In addition, the court may file a charge of "Failure to Appear" and request you be denied renewal of your Driver's License. After 60 days of no activity on your behalf, the court can file with a collection agency and you will accrue additional fees.