

Important Notice

In accordance with the local, state, and federal response to COVID-19 and in consideration of protecting the health of our community, all non-essential Civil and Criminal proceedings are canceled until further notice, except for essential proceedings as defined below.

Essential Proceedings

- Criminal Magistration (in and out of custody)
- Emergency Mental Commitment and Patient Warrant Transfers
- Applications for Writs of Retrieval, Re-Entry and Restoration
- Imminent Threat Eviction
- Repair and Remedy Cases that materially affect the physical health and safety of a tenant.

JP4 will remain operational during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, from 8am to 4pm, for essential proceedings ONLY. Should you need to contact the court for any matter, please call (281)491-6016, press 0 to speak to a clerk.

Traffic/Non-Traffic Offenses - Please visit our [Criminal](#) web page for options or contact us via phone or email at: JP4criminal@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Non-essential Civil Filings - We strongly encourage the use of electronic filing for all new and subsequent civil filings, click [HERE](#) for efile.

Our goal is to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on parties, jurors, judges and staff. We are committed to following the guidelines established by the CDC and the Supreme Court of Texas. We remain focused on our commitment to serving the public.

Thank you for your patience.

Traffic / Non Traffic

In addition to traffic offenses, the Justice of the Peace Court also handles a variety of criminal class C misdemeanors. Some of the more common offenses include: Disorderly Conduct, Assault, Public Intoxication, Minor In Possession of Alcoholic Beverage, and Shoplifting. In cases involving alcohol violations, an alcohol awareness course is usually required. Defendants under 17 years of age are required to appear in Court with their parents.

What Are My Options?

Not Guilty Plea

A defendant accused of one of these crimes has the absolute right to plead Not Guilty and request a trial by Judge or Jury. And In accordance with your not guilty plea and request for a Judge/Jury Trial, your case will be scheduled for a Pre-Trial Hearing at a later date. At that time you will have an opportunity to meet with the Prosecutor, an Assistant District Attorney from the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office. If you have hired an Attorney, he/she must be present on this date.

Failure to appear for a Pre-Trial Hearing or Judge/Jury Trial on a subsequent date may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest and a new charge of Failure to Appear may be filed, which can incur additional fine plus court costs, if you are found guilty.

The Judge is prohibited, by Law, from discussing your ticket with you unless you have plead guilty or no-contest or the District Attorney is also present.

Guilty / No Contest Plea

- [Defensive Driving Course](#)
- [Deferred Disposition](#)
- [Payment Methods](#)
- [Schedule of Fines](#)

You may also plead Guilty or No Contest and pay the fine amount listed on the [Schedule of Fines](#), or you may appear on your court date to see about a pay plan or to request community service in lieu of a fine.

