

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO APPEAR

HOW DO I KNOW MY EXACT APPEARANCE DATE?

Your appearance date is 28 days from date of citation. It is the LAST day that is considered “on time.” You may appear on or before your appearance date

WHEN CAN I TAKE CARE OF MY CITATION?

You may appear any time (during regular business hours) Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Lunch 12:00 to 1:00

FAILURE TO APPEAR ON OR BEFORE YOUR APPEARANCE DATE

Consequences of ignoring this citation:

A: A FAILURE TO APPEAR OR VIOLATE PROMISE TO APPEAR charge and a Warrant being issued for your arrest plus court cost and fees. If a warrant for your arrest is issued, you will be subject to arrest at your home, place of business or wherever you may be found.

B. A **notice** will be sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety for the denial of your driver's license renewal.

INABILITY TO PAY THE FINE IS NOT a reason for failing to appear.

To respond, choose one of the four options listed in this brochure for handling your citation.

OPTION 1 PLEAD NO CONTEST OR GUILTY & PAY IN FULL

APPEAR IN PERSON – Come to the Blooming Grove Municipal Court Office during business hours.

APPEAR BY MAIL – Submit your payment & plea by mail (not applicable to juveniles) OR pay online at www.ci.blooming-grove.tx.us, click “PAY HERE” then chose Court, then follow prompts

PLEA OPTIONS: Choose one and sign your name

() I enter a plea of **No Contest**, and waive my right to a jury trial. *This selection means that you do not contest the State's charge(s) against you but are not admitting guilt and agree to pay the fine/costs assessed by the Judge.* _____
Your Signature

() I enter a plea of **Guilty**, and waive my right to jury trial. *This selection means that you do not contest the State's charge(s) against you and admit guilt and agree to pay the fine/costs assessed by the Judge.* _____
Your Signature

Bring or Mail to: Blooming Grove Municipal Court
P.O. Box 237 – 200 S. Fordyce
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

ALL FINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE

Speeding = \$100.00 plus \$2.00 for each additional mile over the posted limit + \$134.00 (state mandated court costs)

Speeding in School Zone = Please call the court for school zone amounts.

If your offense is not listed OR if you're not sure, please call the Court at 903-695-2711

Ran Stop Sign	\$234.00
Fail to Yield Right-of-Way	\$234.00
No Driver's License	\$234.00
Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility	\$281.00
DWLI	\$634.00
Open Container	\$334.00
FTA	\$581.00
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	\$581.00

POSSIBLE COMPLIANCE DISMISSALS

If your citation is for any of the violations listed below, your case may be eligible for a dismissal. For dismissal, all conditions MUST be met including proof of compliance submitted, and any dismissal fee paid before your appearance/response date.

OFFENSE	Fine	Dismissal Fee
Display Expired Registration	\$209.00	\$20.00
Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility	\$281.00	No Fee
Fail to change address on driver's license	\$189.00	\$20.00

Insurance Dismissals: Provide proof of policy covering the car or the driver **at the** time of citation for a dismissal with no fee required.

Registration Dismissals: A copy of a renewed registration receipt (documenting a special **late penalty fee** paid to the State) and a \$20 dismissal fee.

OPTION 2 PLEAD NOT GUILTY & REQUEST A PRE-TRIAL

To contest a citation and plead NOT guilty, you must request a Pre-Trial Hearing in person, or by mail, on or before your appearance date. You may retain an attorney, who should then submit a letter of representation to the Court by your appearance date. Court hearings cannot be scheduled by phone. Check the Plea box, sign your name and mail or bring to the Court. **MAKE SURE YOU SEND YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS TO THE COURT.**

() I enter a plea of **NOT guilty** and request a trial. This selection means that you intend to contest the charge(s) against you. Your case will be rescheduled for a Pre-trial and you will be mailed notice of when to appear for the pre-trial conference.

Your Signature

3 Take a course, pay a reduced fee to Court

A request for this option must be made by your appearance date. Driving Course will not be granted after the response date. You Must Meet ALL Eligibility Requirements:

- You are at least 17 years of age.
 - You do not possess a Commercial Driver's License.
 - You have current liability insurance & a valid Texas Driver's License.
 - You are not charged with speeding more than 24 miles per hour over the speed limit and the violation did not occur in a construction zone.
 - You have not taken a Driving Course within the last 12 months.
- The following items must be submitted to the court on or before the appearance date shown on the citation to be eligible to take the course:**
1. Submit the NOTARIZED affidavit below.
 2. Court Costs of \$129.00. (in school zone \$154.00)
 3. Copy of your Texas driver's license and current proof of insurance, listing you as a covered driver.

A- DRIVING COURSE REQUEST: Citation _____
I wish to enter a plea of ☐ Guilty ☐ No Contest
I waive my right to a jury trial, and request a 90-day deferment to complete a Driving Safety Course. I understand that this plea can result in a guilty but this judgment will not be entered and no conviction will appear on my record upon submitting the following:
1) Proof of completion of the course and 2) a certified copy of my driving record as maintained by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety (3A ersion) <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/txldrcdr/TXDPSLicenseeManager> I further understand that I am eligible to request a Driving Safety Course for only one violation at a time. My failure to comply with the terms of this request will result in assessment of a fine and possible conviction on my driving record.
Your Signature: _____
Address: _____

Daytime Telephone _____ City, State, Zip Code _____
B-DRIVING SAFETY COURSE AFFIDAVIT (must be notarized)
“Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared the above-named Defendant, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed hereto, who after being duly sworn upon his/her oath sated that the following statements are true:
My name is (print name) _____
And I stand charged with the offense of _____
I am requesting the Court to defer proceedings in this case for a period of 90 days to allow me to complete a Driving Safety Course. I have not requested and taken the Course for a traffic offense 12 months prior to the date of this offense. I am not in the process of taking a course for any other traffic Citation, and I do not possess a Commercial Driver's License of any kind.”
Your Signature: _____
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on this the _____ day of _____, 20____.
(seal)
Notary Signature

4 A 90-day probationary period

You may be eligible for DEFERRED DISPOSITION if:

- You have a current liability insurance & are listed on the policy as a driver.
- You have a valid Driver's License.
- You are at least 17 years of Age.
- You do not have a CDL license currently or at the time of offense.
- You are not currently participating in a Deferred Disposition in any court.
- You are not charged with speeding in excess of 24 mph over the limit, nor in a construction zone.

TO REQUEST IN PERSON: Bring your driver's license, proof of insurance (for policy listing you as a driver), and payment to the Court during business hours.

TO REQUEST BY MAIL: If eligible, you may request this option by providing the following three (3) items to the Municipal Court by mail.

1. The completed request Form below.
2. Deferred payment of \$312.00
3. A copy of your current insurance policy which list you as a driver.

MAIL REQUEST FORM – Deferred Disposition

I wish to enter a plea of ☐ Guilty ☐ No Contest on Citation _____

I waive my right to a jury trial, and request a 90-day deferment to complete the grounds of probation set by the Court. I understand that this plea enters a guilty judgment, and this judgment will be removed upon completion of the probation requirements.

I further understand that I am eligible to request Deferred Disposition for only one violation at a time. My failure to comply with the terms of this request will result in an assessment of an additional fine and possible conviction on my record.

Signature: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone _____ City/State/Zip _____

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Now comes the defendant in the above styled and numbered case and request that he/she be granted Deferred Disposition in support of the Defendant's application would show the court the follow:

"My name is _____ and I stand charged with the offense of _____

I understand that, if I was **24 years of age or younger** at the time of the violation, I'm also required to complete an approved Driving Safety Course within my deferment period and submit proof of such course to the Court.

I am requesting the Court to grant me deferred disposition for a period of 90 days.

I am not currently on probation within the State of Texas for any violation, and I do not possess a Commercial Driver's License of any Kind."

Signature _____

Financial Hardship/Indigent

If you are financially unable to pay a fine and/or court cost in full (one payment), there are other options, such as time-payment plans and performing community service hours instead of paying the fine and court costs. In certain situations, in which a person cannot perform community service and that person is financially unable (Indigent) to pay their fine and court cost on a time payment plan the Court will hear sworn testimony and look at evidence concerning your financial situation to help you resolve this matter. In certain severe situations, the judge can reduce the fine and court costs or eliminate them completely, depending on the severity of your financial situation. Community service options have been expanded by the Texas Legislature to include: (a) attending work and job skills training; (b) a preparatory class for high school equivalency exam; and (c) service at an educational institution. Should you have any questions regarding these options, please contact the Court.

INSTRUCTION FOR JUVENILES (AGES 10 to 16)

Persons aged 10-16 must appear in person, in open Court, WITH A PARENT or legal guardian for court hearings.

To request a Compliance Dismissal: (insurance, expired registration, driver's license) a juvenile must come to the Court office WITH A PARENT or legal guardian during business hours prior to or on their appearance date.

Defendant and parent have a legal obligation to provide the court with a current address and residence in writing and to notify the Court of any change of address while the case remains active. The obligation does not end when you reach the age of 17. Failure to keep the Court informed of your current address is a Class C misdemeanor punished by a fine up to \$500 and may result in an arrest. The obligation terminates ONLY on full discharge and satisfaction of the judgment.

TELEPHONE CALLS are NOT considered an appearance.

Business Hours:

Monday to Thursday

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Lunch 12:00 to 1:00)

903-695-2711 office 903-695-2482 fax

WWW.CI.BLOOMING-GROVE.TX.US

COURT CLERK EMAIL

COURTCLERK@CI.BLOOMING-GROVE.TX.US

**UNDERSTANDING
YOUR CITATION**

(Please fill out 1 of the 4 *options* listed and bring this with you to court unless your paying online)

INFORMATION ON PROCEDURES, FINE AMOUNTS, AND GENERAL **INSTRUCTIONS** REGARDING YOUR CITATION.



01/06/20

Presiding Judge

Connie Hickman

Blooming Grove Municipal Court
200 S. Fordyce (physical address)

P O Box 237 (mailing address)

Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Email: courtclerk@ci.blooming-grove.tx.us

PAYMENT METHODS: We accept Cash, Checks, Money Orders, and Credit Cards. Make checks payable to Blooming Grove Municipal Court.

Credit Card/Debit Card payments may be made in the office or **online** at www.ci.blooming-grove.tx.us scroll to bottom of pay, click "PAY HERE" then chose Court, then follow prompts.

YOUR INFORMATION:

CITATION # _____

PRINT NAME _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone _____ City/State/Zip _____