

## Justice of the Peace #1

The Texas Judicial System has three levels of trial court – district, county, and justice or municipal and two appellate courts. The justice of the peace falls into the justice court. This court has the most uniform court in the state.

Each county is required to have a justice of the peace, and generally there is one for each precinct. The precincts are based on population. These precincts can be changed through redistricting by the commissioners court.

The justice court has jurisdiction over civil, small claims, and eviction suits up to \$10,000 exclusive of interest. Because the justice court is not a court of record, any appeal to county court is trial de novo, or a new trial.

**Juveniles:** If you are under the age of 17 and have any type of violation, **you must appear in court with your parent or guardian.** The court will notify you of your appearance date.

**Minors:** If you are under the age of 21 and you have an alcohol related violation, **you must appear in open court to enter your plea.** The court will notify you of your appearance date.

### Pay a Ticket:

1. This information is furnished as a courtesy to you by the Justice Court of Comal County, Texas, to assist you in making disposition of the charge(s) filed against you. **Your signature on your citation is a legal commitment to appear before the Judge.** Your appearance may be done completely by mail using the reply form. You must respond on or before the appearance date on your citation.
2. If you wish to enter a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, your fine and costs are due with your plea. A plea of nolo contendere means that you do not contest the state's charge(s) against you. The fine for a nolo contendere plea is the same as that for a plea of guilty. Either plea indicates that you agree to waive appearance before the Court for trial.
3. You must refer to the schedule provided to you by the officer to determine the total amount of your fine(s) and cost assessed against you. If you lost the fine and cost schedule, please call our office to obtain the correct amount. Make your remittance to the Justice Court Pct. 1. **Return your copy of the citation and the reply form with your remittance to assure proper credit. No personal checks accepted**
4. If you wish to enter a plea of not guilty, your case will be set for a pretrial hearing and you will be required to appear in open court. If you fail to respond to the charge(s) by the appearance date shown on the citation, **an additional charge will be filed against you for failure to appear and warrants will be issued for your arrest.** You will be subject to immediate arrest and you may not be able to renew your driver's license

A CONVICTION OF AN OFFENSE UNDER A TRAFFIC LAW OF THIS STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE MAY RESULT IN THE ASSESSMENT ON YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OF A SURCHARGE UNDER THE DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM.

