



CITY OF LA JOYA

"JEWEL OF THE VALLEY"

COURT RULES

1. Silent while in the courtroom.
2. All cell phones, paggers, and radios must be turned off completely while in court.
3. No chewing gum, eating food, or drinking any liquids inside the court.
4. No short shorts, and short skirts, no muscle shirts or low cut shirts.
5. No caps, hats, sunglasses, or sandals.

COURT PROCESS

1. When the judge/warrant officer calls your name you must rise and remain standing while the presiding judge is speaking to you.
2. He will ask you, "How do you plea?"

YOU MAY PLEA...

NO LO CONTENDERE (NO CONTEST): Means that you are not pleading guilty or not guilty.

You explain to the judge what happened and he will decide if you are guilty or not guilty. **YOU MAY NOT CONTEST HIS DECISION.** If he finds that you are guilty, he will assess a fine and you make payment arrangements if needed.

GUILTY: Means that you are guilty. You waive the right to a trial or hearing by the Court, and agree to pay the fine and costs the judge assesses. You must also understand that your plea may result in a conviction appearing on either a criminal record or a driver's license record.

Not Guilty: You believe that you are not guilty. The person who pleads not guilty may only enter a plea today. You must pay a bond, which is the same amount of the fine. You may not try to explain what happened. A court hearing will be scheduled for you to come in. You may hire an attorney to represent you or you may represent yourself. You may arrange an agreement with the city attorney and that agreement is presented to the presiding judge. The judge may accept or reject the agreement made. If the agreement is rejected, you will proceed to court. You may decide if you want a trial by judge or trial by jury.

3. Once you enter a plea you make arrangement for payment if needed. An application must be filled out if you are requesting to pay your fine with a payment plan, community service hours, or an extension to pay the full fine on a latter date.
4. If you do not want to this ticket to appear in your driving record you must ask the judge what you may do. The two options available are deferred or the defensive driving course, which you must qualify for.
5. Once the judge dismisses you, you proceed to the front window and turn in your file and paper work to the court clerk. You may not leave the court with any court documents that belong to the court.
6. Once you have signed in, you may not leave the premises, if done so you may receive an arrest warrant.