

## **JUVENILES**

The Municipal Court has jurisdiction of persons between 12 and 17 years of age charged with non-traffic ordinance violations. Juveniles have the same rights as adults with respect to pleas. They have a right to a private (closed) hearing, but may waive this right. A money judgment may be entered against a juvenile found guilty of a non-traffic ordinance violation. Such judgments can be the same as those authorized for adults. You may be ordered to make restitution or to work your fine off by doing community service.

If the juvenile fails to pay the judgment or comply with the order of the court, his/her driver's license may be suspended. If the offense is alcohol related, the driver's license of the defendant may be suspended regardless of payments.

## **TRIALS**

It is the prosecution that bears the burden of proving the case against each defendant by clear, convincing and satisfactory evidence. The prosecution will produce its witnesses first to testify as to the facts and circumstances surrounding their case. You or your lawyer will be permitted to cross-examine each witness. When the prosecution has completed its case, you

and your witnesses will be given the opportunity to testify and will be subjected to cross-examination by the prosecution. A more detailed hand-out for trials is available from the clerk. The Court will determine whether you are guilty or not guilty. If the court finds you not guilty, you will be discharged and the complaint against you dismissed. If you are found guilty, the court will impose a penalty, taking into consideration the seriousness of the violation and your past record. If necessary, you may have up to 60 days to pay the forfeiture and costs.

## **APPEALS**

If you are found guilty after trial, you have the right to appeal your case to the Kenosha County Circuit Court. Appeals must be filed within 20 days after a guilty finding is made in Municipal court. If you fail to meet this time limit, you have lost the right to appeal. The appeal fee, forfeiture, and costs must be posted upon filing the appeal. You have the right to a jury trial on appeal, upon payment of appropriate fees.



## **Twin Lakes and Randall Municipal Court**

### **Municipal Court Procedures**

**Bruce C. Goodnough  
Municipal Judge**

**105 E. Main Street  
Twin Lakes WI 53181  
262-877-2269**

**[court@twinlakeswi.gov](mailto:court@twinlakeswi.gov)**

### **TO ALL DEFENDANTS**

Since most people are concerned about appearing, I offer the following rules and procedures to help you understand how the court functions. This court has jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic ordinances in this municipality. You have a right to be represented by an attorney or you may proceed without one. If you want an attorney, you must retain one at your own expense. The court cannot provide you with a Public Defender.

### **INITIAL APPEARANCE**

At an initial appearance, the defendant may enter one of the following pleas: Guilty, Not Guilty, or No Contest. If you plead Guilty, it is an admission of the charges against you. A plea of No Contest is similar to a plea of Guilty and will be treated the same as a Guilty plea; however, you will not be admitting your civil liability for use in other litigation, which may occur where personal injury or property damage is involved.

Where pleas of Guilty and No Contest are made, a money judgment (forfeiture) is entered against you. You will, however, be given an opportunity to testify to any mitigating circumstances surrounding the charge before I impose the forfeiture. If you

enter either of these pleas, you will be found guilty of the charge.

If you plead Not Guilty, it means that you feel the charge against you is not correct. If you are in doubt as to which plea to enter, I suggest you plead Not Guilty or ask for a continuance so you can review your case and make an intelligent plea at the adjourned date.

### **COURT PROCEDURE**

When your name is called, please advance to a position in front of the bench. I will then inform you of the charges and the consequences of your plea.

Those defendants pleading Guilty or No Contest may make a brief statement. I will then review the police reports and consider the seriousness of the present charge and any past record; I will then render my judgment accordingly.

Upon a finding of Guilty, forfeiture plus costs may be imposed. Forfeitures are payable immediately; however, I will defer payment for a reasonable time (60 days). If you fail to pay your forfeiture, you may be committed to jail or in some cases; your driver's license shall be suspended for up to 1 year.

### **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

If you are found Guilty of a traffic offense, in addition to any judgment made by the court, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation may assess demerit points against your driving record, which may result in the suspension or revocation of your driver's license. The assessment of 12 demerit points in one year shall result in the loss of your license. Any person holding a probationary license will be assessed double the demerit points for the second and subsequent violations. Juveniles cited for traffic ordinance violations are subject to the same forfeitures and court procedures as adults.