Arraignment Hearing

This serves as the first opportunity to see someone about his/her case. At this time, the defendant will be allowed to enter a plea to the charges. All defendants are advised his/her rights to have an Attorney represent them, or they may choose to represent themselves. The right to representation by an attorney may be used at any time during the process and at any hearings.

Trial

If a defendant pleads not guilty at his/her arraignment, a later date will be set for the pre-trial. At the pre-trial hearing, the Prosecutor and defendant's attorney will attempt to settle the case. If unable to come to a resolution, the case will proceed to trial. At trial, the Prosecutor will present any evidence and call any witnesses to prove his/her case. The defendant will then have the opportunity to present his/her own evidence and witnesses to prove that he/she is not guilty. All defendants have the right to be represented by an attorney at this and any subsequent hearings.

Guilty Plea

The plea of guilty is a complete admission of the defendant's guilt.

No Contest Plea

The plea of no contest is not an admission of guilt, but is an admission of the truth of the facts alleged in the information or complaint, and such a plea of admission will not be used against the defendant in any subsequent civil or criminal proceedings.

Not Guilty Plea

The plea of Not Guilty is a denial of legal guilt, and the case will be set for trial at a later date.

Summons

A summons is issued by the Court after the defendant fails to appear at the initial Arraignment. It is a Court Order, which requires the Defendant to appear at a later Arraignment. As a result of the case going to summons, additional costs will be incurred.

Warrant

If a Defendant fails to appear at a Court hearing as ordered, a warrant for his/her arrest will be issued by the Court. This document allows the Division of Police to pick up the defendant and place him/her in jail pending a court arraignment hearing or until the proper amount of bond has been posted. More court costs are assessed as a result of this warrant.

Sentencing Alternatives

When an individual has been convicted of an offense, the Mayor will impose a sentence. The possible sanctions may include, but are not limited to jail time, fines and court costs, community service or a period of probation supervision.

Gahanna Mayor's Court

Sean Maxfield, *Magistrate*

Amanda J. Parker, *Clerk of Court*

Raymond Mularski, *City Prosecutor*

Kelleen Roth, *City Prosecutor*

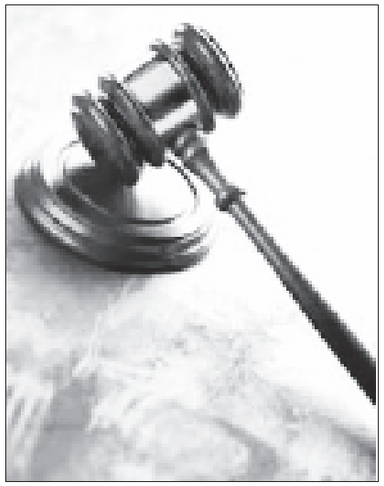
Tom Kneeland, *Mayor*

CITY OF GAHANNA

MAYOR'S COURT

Mayor's Court
200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
Phone: 614-342-4080
Fax: 614-342-4180
www.gahanna.gov

Mayor's Court Process



A Better Understanding of Gahanna's Court Process

Tickets Not Requiring Court Appearance

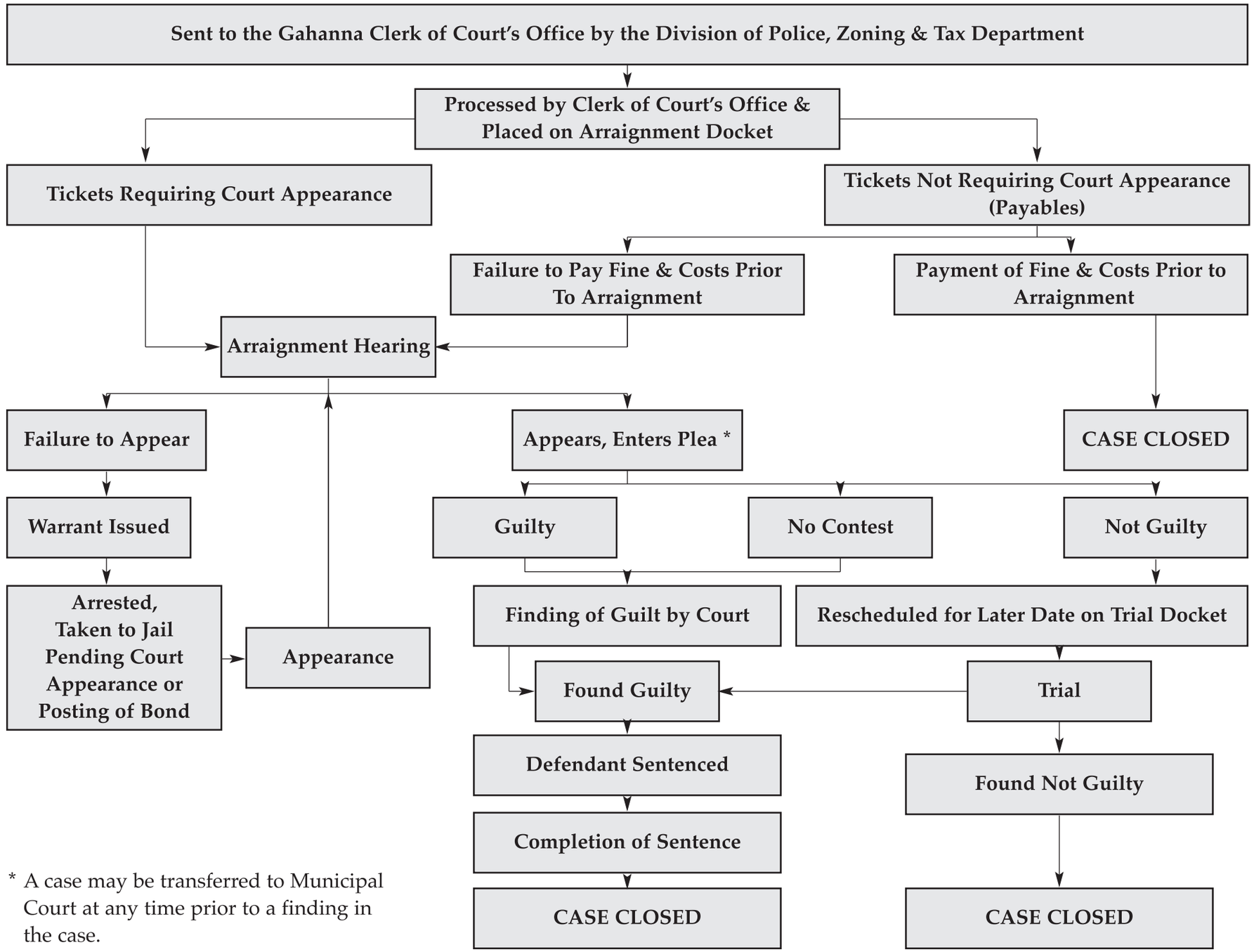
These are all Minor Misdemeanor charges, and most in the Fourth Degree Misdemeanor category. Examples of offenses include Speeding less than 20 miles per hour Over the Posted Speed Limit and Driving on/in the Berm. Fines can be paid prior to the Arraignment Hearing by admitting guilt and paying the total amount of any fines and costs listed.

Tickets Requiring Court Appearance

These are some charges, which are classified in the Fourth Degree Misdemeanor category, as well as other charges in the Third, Second and First Degree Misdemeanor categories. Examples include Operation of a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated (OMVI) and Driving Under Suspension.

Transfer of Case to Municipal Court

If a defendant is charged with a misdemeanor other than a minor misdemeanor, the defendant has the right to have the case transferred to Municipal Court at any time by requesting a transfer in writing during the process before a finding has been entered. Possible reasons for the request may be to have the case heard by a jury, to obtain legal representation through the Public Defender's Office if the Defendant is declared indigent, or to



* A case may be transferred to Municipal Court at any time prior to a finding in the case.