

## PLEAS

*Under our American system of justice, all persons are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty. On a plea of not guilty, a trial is held. As in all criminal trials, the State must prove the guilt of a defendant "beyond a reasonable doubt" of the offense charged in the complaint before the defendant can be found guilty by a judge or jury.*

Your decision concerning which plea to enter is very important. You should read the following explanation of all three types of pleas and think carefully before making your decision.

**Plea of Guilty**- A plea of guilty means that you admit that the act is prohibited by law and that you committed the act charged. You also waive your right to a trial by judge or jury.

**Plea of Nolo Contendere** (no contest) - A plea of nolo contendere means that you do not contest the State's charge against you. You also waive your right to a trial by judge or jury.

**Plea of Not Guilty**- A plea of not guilty means that you deny guilt, and that the State must prove the charge that it filed against you. You will inform the court whether you want a trial before a jury or before a judge. A plea of not guilty does not waive any of your of your rights. A plea of not guilty does not prevent a plea of guilty or no contest at a later time.

If you plead guilty or no contest, you will be found guilty and should be prepared to pay the fine. If you are unable to pay the entire fine at once, you should contact the court regarding a payment arrangement. You will be expected to make the first payment at that time.

## [PLEA FORM](#)