

JUVENILES

The municipal court has jurisdiction over juveniles (under age 17) charged with most Class C misdemeanor offenses except public intoxication (Sec. 49.02, PC), registration with amateur radio plates (Sec. 502.282, TC); accident involving damage to vehicle (Sec. 502.022, TC); and duty of striking unattended vehicle (Sec. 550.024, TC). All juveniles are required to appear in open court for all proceedings in their cases. The parent or guardian of a juvenile charged in municipal court must be present in court with their child. Juveniles who fail to appear in court may have an additional charge of failure to appear filed against them. Juveniles who fail to appear or fail to apply their fine will be reported to the Department of Public Safety who will suspend or deny issuance of a driver's license. If a juvenile disobeys a court order, the court may order DPS to suspend or deny issuance of a driver's license or find the child in contempt and assess a fine not to exceed \$500, or referred to juvenile court for contempt.

If found guilty of, or placed on deferred for an alcohol offense, the court must order the completion of an alcohol awareness course and a period of community service. Failure to complete and turn in proof of completion will result in a suspension of driver's license for a period not to exceed 180 days.

If found guilty of, or placed on deferred for a tobacco offense, the court must order the completion of a tobacco awareness course. Failure to complete and turn in proof of completion will result in a suspension of driver's license for a period not to exceed 180 days.

The records of this court are criminal records and are public and accessible to the public.

You may be entitled to an expunction of the records in your case. If you complete a deferred disposition in your case you may file a petition in District Court for Expunction.

You may petition this court for an expunction:

- after your 21st birthday for a single alcohol conviction.
- after your 18th birthday for a tobacco offense.
- after your 18th birthday for a single Failure to Attend violation.
- after your 17th birthday for a single conviction of any other non-traffic violation.

You may ask for proper forms for application for expunction. If you have questions regarding expunctions, please consult with a licensed attorney.

A child and parent required to appear before the court have an obligation to provide the court in writing with the current address and residence of the child. The obligation does not end when the child reaches age 17. On or before the seventh day after the date the child or parent changes residence, the child or parent shall notify the court of the current address in the manner directed by the court. A violation of this requirement may result in arrest and is a Class C misdemeanor. The obligation to provide notice terminates on discharge and satisfaction of the judgment or final disposition not requiring a finding of guilt.