

## Speeding Violations

Miles Per Hour Over the Legal Limit

	10 or Less	11—19	20 or more
POINTS:	3	4	6

### REGULAR CONVICTIONS POINTS\*

Attempting to elude an officer	6
Failure to perform duty after accident	6
Operating while revoked or suspended	3
Operating under the influence of intoxicant or drugs	6
Reckless driving or racing	6
Violation of occupational license	6
Deviating from traffic lane	4
Driving on wrong side of highway or street	4
Failure to yield right of way	4
Failure to yield to emergency vehicle	4
Imprudent driving, too fast for conditions, failure to have vehicle under control	4
Inattentive driving	4
Failure by operator to stop for school bus when red lights are flashing	4
Unnecessary acceleration	4
Arterial or traffic control violation	3
Driving wrong way on one way street	3
Failure to dim lights	3
Failure to give proper signal	3
Following too closely	3
Illegal passing	3
Improper brakes or lights	3
Operating with expired license or without any license	3
Operating with multiple licenses	3
Prohibited or illegal turn	3
Violation of restriction	3
Deprive any vehicle use of full traffic lane	2
Parking on highway in traffic lane, defective speedometer	2
License not in person's immediate possession	0
No registration plate light	0

### COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE CONVICTIONS POINTS

Operating while disqualified	6
Operating with alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more but less than 0.08 causing injury	6
Commercial speeding in excess (20 or more mph over limit)	6
Commercial speeding intermediate (15 through 19 mph over limit)	4
Possession of intoxicating beverage while operating or being on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle	3
Unlawful commercial motor vehicle license or endorsement	3
Operating a commercial motor vehicle or being on duty time with respect to a commercial motor vehicle while having any measured alcohol concentration above 0.0 but less than 0.04 or within 4 hours of having consumed or having been under the influence of an intoxicating beverage, regardless of alcohol content	0
Operating with alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more but less than 0.08 and no causing injury	0

### MOTORCYCLE CONVICTIONS POINTS

Headlights not lit (daylight hours 0 points)	3
No cycle license	3
Defective or repaired handlebars	2
More than 2 riders (operator)	2
No eye protection (operator)	2
No protective headgear	0

\*If you have a probationary license, points are doubled for each conviction after your first.

## HOW IS THE DOLLAR AMOUNT ON MY CITATION DETERMINED?

The dollar amount written on your citation is actually a combination of a forfeiture and numerous surcharges and fees. The forfeiture for an offense is a relatively small part of the total penalty that you must pay. For example, if you received a speeding citation, the minimum forfeiture for this offense is \$30. The base forfeiture (\$30) and the fees and surcharges (\$53.80) total \$83.80. This is the amount that the officer is required to write on your citation, if traveling 1—15 mph above the speed limit. It is the minimum amount that you must pay for a speeding conviction in the above range.

## WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY ALL THESE FEES AND SURCHARGES?

These fees and surcharges are added to your citation according to state statute.

State statutes require that the officer and the Court include these fees and surcharges on your citation.

## WHERE DO THESE FEES GO?

On a typical speeding citation the minimum citation amount is broken down as follows:

Based on 2008 fines and costs.

Forfeiture Municipal Portion	\$30.00
26% Penalty Assessment State Portion	\$ 7.80
Court Costs Municipal Portion	\$28.00
Jail Assessment Fee County Portion	\$10.00
Crime Lab & Drug Assessment State Portion	\$ 8.00
Total	\$83.80

# A Citation....



## ...Your Rights & Responsibilities

Please Read Immediately

- Citation No. \_\_\_\_\_
- Court Date \_\_\_\_\_

In lieu of appearance, a bond of \$\_\_\_\_\_ may be posted by mail. Send a check or money order made payable to:

**TURTLE LAKE—ALMENA  
JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT  
P.O. Box 11  
114 Martin Ave East  
Turtle Lake WI 54889**

**INCLUDE YOUR CITATION NUMBER AND THE COURT DATE WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO ASSURE PROPER HANDLING.**

**THIS BROCHURE DOES NOT APPLY TO CASES REQUIRING A MANDATORY COURT APPEARANCE.**

**If you require assistance appearing in Court as a result of a disability, please call, (715) 986-2241 to make special arrangements.**



# Turtle Lake—Almena Joint Municipal Court

## INTRODUCTION

You have just received a traffic citation. Before you vent your frustration on the arresting officer, pause a moment and reflect on the driving conduct or behavior which led to your arrest. The officer is only doing the job for which the officer was trained—trying to save you and others from unnecessary property damage, injury or death. Over 56,000 Americans are needlessly killed each year on our highways. The officer's job is to insure that you are not one of them.

This brochure is designed to answer questions you may have concerning the citation you have been issued.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I APPEAR IN COURT ON THE DATE ON MY CITATION?

The date on your citation is the date of your initial appearance. An initial appearance is your opportunity to enter a plea to the charge. You may plead guilty, no contest, or not guilty. The initial appearance is not the trial date. If you plead guilty or no contest, the court will find you guilty and the matter will be resolved at the initial appearance. **Be prepared to pay the citation at that time. If you require a payment plan, be prepared to make a minimal payment. There is no guarantee that your citation will be reduced. Your citation may already be written for the minimum forfeiture and points.**

If you plead not guilty, your case will be scheduled for a pretrial conference at a later date of which you will be mailed a notice.

## MUST I APPEAR IN COURT ON THE DATE SET FORTH ON MY CITATION?

You may avoid appearing in Court by sending the bail amount prior to your Court date. If bail is posted and you do not appear in Court, you will be found guilty, and the bail money posted will be forfeited. The Court does accept Postmark by date of Initial Appearance.

You may also avoid appearing in Court if you enter a plea in writing. Mail your plea to the address on the front of this brochure. Include the charge and violation date, the initial appearance date, the citation number, your current mailing address and phone number; then sign and date. This plea must be received before the Court date on the citation. If your plea is not guilty, a Court date for a pretrial conference will be mailed to you. You will be required to make a phone call for your pretrial at a specific date and time listed on your notice; you will not need to appear in person.

If you do not post bail money and you also fail to enter a plea in person or by writing, a judgment will be entered against you for the amount of the citation. From the date of judgment, you will be allowed no more than 60 days to pay. Failure to pay will result in either a warrant for your arrest or suspension of your driver's license.

## CAN I CHANGE MY COURT DATE?

No. It is not necessary to change your Court date. If you are unable to attend the scheduled Court date, you should enter your plea in writing by mail. This must be received **BEFORE** your Court date.

*Please call the Court Clerk with any questions regarding payments, pleas, Court process, etc., or to update mailing address information at (715) 986-2241.*

## I WISH TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY; HOW DO I DO THAT AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN COURT?

You may plead not guilty either by appearing in Court on the date on your citation, or by entering a not guilty plea in writing by mail prior to the Court date. Mail the written plea of not guilty to the address on the front of this brochure. Include the charge and violation date, the date you were scheduled to appear, the citation number, your current mailing address and phone number; then sign and date. This must be received before the Court date on your citation.

After you plead not guilty, the case will be scheduled for a pretrial conference. You will be mailed a notice that requires you to make a phone call at a specific date and time to the Village's Attorney for your pretrial conference; you will not need to appear in person. If a settlement is *not* reached during pretrial, a trial will be scheduled to be heard in front of the Judge.

## I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE POINTS BEING ASSESSED AGAINST MY DRIVING RECORD. HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M IN POINT TROUBLE?

If you are found guilty of a traffic violation, your driving record may be charged with demerit points. The Court will not determine the number of points assessed against your record. The Court will merely report the conviction to the WI Department of Transportation, and DOT will assess the number of points against your record, depending upon the charge. The point schedule in this brochure lists common traffic violations. Other violations, not listed, may also carry points. If you accumulate 12 points against your driving record, your license will be suspended or revoked.

If you have questions about the status of your license you should call the WI Department of Transportation, Driver Information Section, (608) 266-2261.