



GENERAL SESSIONS COURT

Criminal jurisdiction is limited to misdemeanor cases and preliminary hearings. General Sessions Court handles all arrests, minor traffic, hunting and fishing offenses that are issued by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, TWRA Officials and Park Officials. General Sessions Court handles all arrest made by the Union County Sheriff's Department, Maynardville Police Department and Plainview Police Department. The Court also issues Orders of Protection.

Criminal Cases

- **You may hire your own attorney. If you are indigent, you may apply for a court appointed attorney in criminal cases**
- **If found guilty, the conviction will stay on your record**
- **If the case is dismissed, it may be expunged from your record. You will have to prepare the paperwork or see an attorney to help you. There may also be a charge to file the paperwork.**
- **Convictions on driving offenses are reported to the Department of Safety and do go on your driving history.**
- **Failure to appear in court for failure to pay fine & costs could result in your arrest or your driver's license being suspended.**
- **All General Sessions cases are open to the public. A public access computer is available to do a record search on someone.**

Traffic Offenses

Traffic cases can be handled through our office without having to appear in court. However, there are some instances where this would not be an option.

If you have been charged with a minor moving traffic violation, you have three options in handling your case:

- 1. You can pay (under most circumstances)**
- 2. Attend a Drivers Improvement Course, providing you qualify**
- 3. Appear in court to have a Judge to hear your case**

Quick Reference Violations

INSURANCE – If you had insurance but did not have proof with you at the time, you may provide proof at the clerk's office. There may be a small fine.

REGISTRATION AND DRIVERS LICENSE- You may bring proof of registration or driver's license to the clerk's office or to court and your case may be dismissed upon payment of cost or fine, depending upon the facts of the case and recommendations made by the officer or State of Tennessee.

EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS- If you get the equipment repaired and bring proof of repairs or drive the vehicle and have an office determine if the equipment is operable, your may will be dismissed upon payment of the cost.