

SARALAND MUNICIPAL COURT  
VS.

**DEFENDANT**

**CASE NUMBER**

This to inform you of your rights as a defendant in this criminal case. You are charged with an offense, which is a municipal ordinance violation or misdemeanor.

In the event you plead guilty to the above offense, or if the court finds that you are guilty of the offense, the law provides punishment by imprisonment, which may include hard labor, for not more than six (6) months for each offense and one (1) year for DUI, Domestic Violence, and other Class A Misdemeanors; and/or imposition of a fine of not more than \$500 except for certain Misdemeanor cases which may be up to \$1000, other Class A Misdemeanors, including Domestic Violence, not to exceed \$5,000, and DUI cases which the fine may be as much as \$5,000. If convicted of a Domestic Violence crime, your 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights will be TERMINATED pursuant to Federal Law. You may face up to five (5) years to life if in violation of Federal Domestic Violence Gun Laws.

You have the right to an attorney of your choosing to represent you in these proceedings. If there is a strong likelihood that imprisonment will be a part of the punishment should you be convicted and the court determines that you are indigent, an attorney will be appointed to represent you.

Under the Constitution of the United States and the State of Alabama, you have a right or privilege not to be compelled to give evidence against yourself. In the trial of your case, you have the right to testify on your own behalf if you so desire, but no one can require you to testify. If you testify, you can be cross-examined by the prosecutor. If you do not testify, no one can comment as to your failure to testify.

You have the right to stand on your plea of not guilty, and the right to a public trial before a judge.

In the trial of your case, you or your attorney could subpoena witnesses on your behalf, make legal objections to matters that you feel are incorrect or prejudicial, question witnesses for the prosecution, examine your own witnesses and argue your case before the trial judge. You have the right to have witnesses subpoenaed to testify as to pertinent facts in your favor.

In the trial of your case, you will come into court clothed with the presumption that you are not guilty and this presumption of innocence will follow you throughout the course of the trial until the evidence produced by the prosecution convinces the judge, beyond a reasonable doubt, of your guilt. If the prosecution does not meet such burden of proof, you must be found not guilty. You have no burden of proof whatsoever in your trial.

If you are found guilty in Saraland Municipal Court, you have the right to appeal de novo to the circuit court within 14 days from the entry of Judgement by filing a notice of appeal and giving bond, with or without surety, approved by the court in an amount not more than twice the amount of fine and costs, as fixed by the court, or in the event no fine is levied the bond shall be in an amount not exceeding \$1000 as fixed by the court, conditional upon your appearance before the circuit court. This bond may be waived if a satisfactory showing that you are indigent or otherwise unable to provide a surety bond. If an appeal bound is waived, and you have been sentenced to imprisonment, you will not be released from custody, but may obtain release at any time by filing a bond approved by the court.

To the charges set forth in the complaint, you have the right to enter a plea of guilty, not guilty, or not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. You will enter a plea of guilty only if you are actually guilty of this offense and you do not desire a trial.

IF YOU PLEAD GUILTY TO THE OFFENSE, THERE WILL BE NO TRIAL BEFORE THE JUDGE OF THIS COURT AND YOU WILL BE WAIVING THE RIGHTS ENUMERATED ABOVE.

The court will go over these rights as well as the nature of the charge and the material elements of the offense with you. If you have any questions about any of them, please ask the undersigned Judge and further explanation will be made thereof to you.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

**Guilty plea with attorney:**

Comes now the defendant and his attorney and certify that the above rights were read by the defendant or were read to him by his attorney; that the attorney discussed such rights with the defendant in detail. Having gone over these rights and the consequences of entering a plea of guilty with the defendant the attorney is of the opinion that the defendant understands these rights and knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waives his rights to trial and enters a plea of guilty. The defendant states that he/she is not under the influence of any drugs, medicines or alcoholic beverages that would impair said judgement and that he/she has not been threatened or abused or offered any inducement or reward to plead guilty.

DATE                      ATTORNEY                      DEFENDANT

**Guilty plea – Waiver of Attorney:**

Comes now the defendant in the above styled case and states to the Court that he/she has read, or has had read to him, the matters and rights herein above set forth and that the defendant fully understands them; that he understands he has a right to an attorney to represent him in this matter and that he waives this right; that he is not under the influence of any drugs, medicines or alcoholic beverages and has not been threatened or abused or offered any inducement or reward to get him/her to plead guilty. Defendant further states to the Court that he/she is guilty as charged in this case, desires to plead guilty, and knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently waives his/her rights to a trial in this case and his/her rights to have an attorney represent him/her.

DATE                      DEFENDANT