

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF GRIFFIN
STATE OF GEORGIA**

CITY OF GRIFFIN

VS.

_____,
DEFENDANT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MY LEGAL RIGHTS

PLEASE INITIAL EACH PARAGRAPH IF YOU UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR RIGHTS.

_____ 1. I understand that the charges against me carry a maximum sentence of twelve months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.00 or a combination of the two. Aggravated misdemeanors may carry a fine of up to \$5,000.00.

_____ 2. I understand that the Judge may give me a sentence to serve time in jail, pay a fine, and/or successfully complete probation. If all or part of my sentence is probated, and I violate the terms and conditions of probation, I could be sentenced to serve time in jail.

_____ 3. I understand that I have a right to be represented by a lawyer. If I cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed for me.

_____ 4. I understand that if I am facing the possibility of jail or probation and I cannot afford a lawyer, a lawyer will be appointed to represent me. I will be required to provide information about my income and assets so that the court can decide whether or not I can afford a lawyer.

_____ 5. I understand that a lawyer is trained in law and legal procedure and can:

- a. Help me understand the charge(s) against me;
- b. Determine whether the charge(s) against me are legally sufficient;
- c. Explain my rights and answer my questions about my case;
- d. Determine whether I have any defenses to the charge(s), such as, defects in the citation or accusation, misidentification, alibi, reliance on the presumption of innocence, the prosecution's burden to prove my guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; or some other defense;
- e. File motions and make objections to prevent the prosecution from using evidence that is not legally admissible against me;
- f. Prepare for and conduct a trial;
- g. Require witnesses to come to the trial by using subpoenas;
- h. Help me decide whether I should ask for or give up a jury trial for misdemeanors, whether to testify or remain silent, and whether to ask for a trial or enter a plea of Guilty or Nolo Contendere to some or all of the charges pending against me; and
- i. Make sure all of my rights are protected.

6. I understand that I can proceed without a lawyer and that there are certain dangers and disadvantages to giving up my right to a lawyer. Some of them are:

- a. I will have to follow the rules of law and legal procedure in the same manner as a lawyer would even though I am not one;
- b. I may not be aware of all the possible defenses and circumstances that could help the judge decide;
- c. I will be required to make strategic decisions, such as what witnesses to call and whether to testify; and
- d. It would be difficult to challenge my conviction on appeal if I do not object to anything improper during my trial or because the trial proceedings were not recorded.

7. I understand that when deciding whether I want to be represented by a lawyer, I must not be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

8. I understand that by entering a plea of Guilty or Nolo Contendere I waive:

- a. My right to trial by judge or jury;
- b. My right to be presumed innocent;
- c. My right to subpoena witnesses and confront and cross examine witnesses;
- d. My right to testify and offer evidence on my behalf;
- e. My right to the assistance of counsel during trial; and
- f. My right to remain silent and not testify.

9. I understand that if I enter a plea of Guilty or Nolo Contendere in this case, there will be no further trial or hearing and a fine or sentence or both may be imposed. I further understand that by entering a plea, I will waive my right to an appeal.

10. I understand that if I am not a citizen of the United States, a plea of Guilty or Nolo Contendere may have a negative impact on my immigration status.

Understanding the foregoing, I now desire to enter my plea, which is given freely and voluntarily. I have not been told what sentence will be imposed, and no promises or threats have been made to me by any prosecutor, lawyer, police officer, or other person to induce me to enter this plea. I hereby state that I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol and am able to read and write.

PLEASE INITIAL ONE OF THE BELOW STATEMENTS

_____ Having been completely and fully informed of all my rights, I am knowingly and willfully waiving my right to jury trial and right to a lawyer and hereby plead **GUILTY**.

_____ Having been completely and fully informed of all my rights, I am knowingly and willfully waiving my right to jury trial and right to a lawyer and hereby plead **NOLO CONTENDERE**.

_____ Having been completely and fully informed of all my rights, I am knowingly and willfully waiving my right to jury trial and hereby plead **NOT GUILTY**.

Defendant

Date