

# Trial

A trial in municipal court is a fair, impartial, and public trial as in any other court.

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## Complaints

Under Texas law, you may be brought to trial only after a sworn complaint is filed against you. A complaint is a document that alleges the act you are supposed to have committed and that the act is unlawful. You may be tried only for what is alleged in the complaint.

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## Your Rights

You have the following rights in court:

- The right to have notice of the complaint no later than 24 hours prior to trial
  - The right to have your case tried before a jury if you so desire
  - The right to hear all testimony introduced against you
  - The right to cross-examine witnesses who testify against you
  - The right to testify on your behalf
  - The right not to testify, if you so desire; if you choose not to testify, your refusal to do so may not be held against you in determining your innocence or guilt
  - The right to call witnesses to testify on your behalf at the trial and have the court issue a subpoena (a court order) to any witnesses to ensure their appearance at the trial; the request for a subpoena may be oral or in writing
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## Jurors

If you choose to have the case tried before a jury, you have the right to question jurors about their qualifications to hear your case. If you think that a juror will not be fair, impartial, or unbiased, you may ask the judge to excuse the juror.

## Excusing Jurors

The judge will decide whether or not to grant your request. In each jury trial, you are also permitted to strike 3 members of the jury panel for any reason you choose, except an illegal reason (such as a strike based solely upon a person's race or gender).