

COURT APPEARANCES

Under the Juvenile Link:

Juvenile defendants under the age of **17** and Minor defendants age **17 through 20** cannot appear at the court window to make disposition on their case.

A juvenile defendant age **10-17** that is charged with a class c misdemeanor is required to appear in open court to enter a plea before the Judge. A parent or legal guardian is required to appear with the juvenile in open court 45.0215 CCP.

Parent / Guardian includes a person standing in a parental relation, a managing conservator, or a custodian per Art 45.057(a) CCP.

Once a case is filed in the Crowley Municipal Court on a defendant **who is under the age of 17** the Parent or Guardian of that defendant will be summoned through the mail by a Certified Peace Officer to appear in Court with the defendant on the date that is given on the summons. The Parent or Guardian from this point is under obligation to provide the court with the juvenile defendant's current address and inform the court of any address changes until the defendant turns age **17**.

If the Parent or Guardian fails to appear with the juvenile defendant, a class c misdemeanor charge can be filed against the Parent or Guardian per Art. 45.057(g) CCP, and the court will send a notice to the Department of Public Safety to have the juvenile defendant disqualified from obtaining a driver's license, or have the current driver's license suspended until the case is disposed of.

Upon the juvenile defendant reaching the age of **17** and he/she still has not appeared a charge of Violation of Obligation to Appear may be filed by the City Prosecutor under Art 45.060 CCP and an arrest warrant may be issued on this charge.

Minor defendants age **17** who are charged with a **Tobacco Offense** and age **17 through 20** who are charged with a **Alcohol Offense** are required to appear in open court to enter a plea before the Judge. The Parent or Guardian appearance is not required in this instance.

A letter will be mailed to the defendant at the address that is noted on the citation with the scheduled hearing date.

If the defendant fails to appear at the hearing a warrant will be issued for his/her arrest.

A Parent or Guardian of a child who is charged with **Failure to Attend School** will be summoned to appear in court with the child regardless of the age of that child. Art 45.054 CCP.

*There will be a \$35.00 Writ Service Fee added on to the amount of the fine upon conviction for the service of the summons.