



INFORMAL HEARING INFORMATION

Court Address

- 212 East Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
 1007 East Wells Street, South Haven, MI 49090

Court Telephone No.

(269) 657-8200
(269) 637-5258

An informal hearing is held before the attorney-magistrate. The hearings are held remotely by Zoom, unless a party needs to appear in person. Neither side may be represented by an attorney. This is your opportunity to contest the ticket. You may ask questions of the Court and law enforcement officer, and have witnesses testify on your behalf. All witnesses are sworn in under oath.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE INFORMAL HEARING?

You may be found:

- Not responsible for the charge on the ticket.
- Responsible for the charge on the ticket, or another charge.

You may also admit responsibility with an explanation. With this plea, there is not a contested hearing, and you simply explain to the attorney-magistrate your version of the event. In this instance, the Court has the discretion to reduce fines and costs. However, please be aware that the Court cannot reduce points for the ticket by an admission with explanation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL TO APPEAR?

If you fail to appear, the Court will enter a default judgment against you. An additional \$25.00 cost to compel default fee will be added to the original cost of the ticket.

APPEAL PROCEDURES:

Within 7 days of the judgment, you may file a written appeal. A bond equal to the amount of the fines and costs must also be filed.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the 7th District Court at the numbers listed above or by email: 7dc@vanburencountymi.gov.