

Presentation:

In court, it is important to have a good and clear presentation to your case. Some helpful tips for this are:

- ❖ Dress nice - it is important to have a good image and wear formal clothing to show that you are serious
- ❖ Be brief and polite - being polite to the judge will certainly help win you the case
- ❖ Know your case - it is vital to know all the facts and arguments you will be using during the trial

Opening Statements:

For your opening statements, make sure that you address the judge politely with “Judge [last name]” or “your honor.” Furthermore, make sure to state your innocence and that you are not guilty. Example given below.

“Your Honor,

I plead not guilty to this (parking/registration/sticker/etc.) violation.

My car was parked from (time) to (time) at _____ (location).

The (parking/registration/sticker/etc.) ticket was issued at (time).”

Facts and Appeals:

Have prepared at least 2 or 3 logical reasons and/or facts that help your specific case and allow the judge to empathize with you. Some examples of this are:

- ❖ A possible malfunction of the parking meter
- ❖ Medical emergency
- ❖ Difficulty of payment
- ❖ Car breakdown

- ❖ Inability to come back to car in time
- ❖ Parking signs were unclear or not in view
- ❖ Photo evidence

And more, depending on your personal situation. Go through the events prior to ticket, if necessary to the case.

“My reasons for pleading not guilty are as follows:

1. (reason 1)
2. (reason 2)
3. (reason 3)

Due to these reasons stated, I respectfully request an appeal to the ticket I was given. Thank you.”

After that, the judge will likely ask you questions and to clarify certain parts of your situation. Just remember to answer briefly and honestly.

A sample appeal in the next page shows how you can use the aforementioned steps to format your argument.

Your Honor,

I plead not guilty to this parking violation.

My car was parked from 7pm to 9pm at 3201 S Michigan Ave Parking Lot. The parking ticket was issued at 7:30pm.

My reasons for pleading not guilty are as follows:

1. The parking signs were not clear enough for me to reasonably notice as they were covered by tree branches. I have photo evidence that shows such.
2. Furthermore, I couldn't reach my car in time because the place I was visiting was further away and I had to catch the train back.

Due to these reasons stated, I respectfully request an appeal to the ticket I was given. Thank you.