

Traffic Division

If you are ticketed or arrested in Alpena County for a traffic violation or a city ordinance it will be for either a Civil infraction or Misdemeanor; definitions as follows:

Terms and Definitions

Civil Infraction

Civil infractions are traffic violations such as speeding, improper turn, safety belt. These traffic violations are non-criminal. A fine is attached to those citations, you can call 989/354/9678 to inquire.

Misdemeanor Traffic Violations

Misdemeanor traffic violations are violations such as drunk driving, driving while license suspended, improper plates. These traffic violations can result in arrest and/or may require court appearances.

Citation or Ticket

Citation means "a complaint or notice upon which a police officer shall record an occurrence involving one or more violations by the person cited." The cited person is the defendant. A citation can be a civil infraction or a misdemeanor depending on the seriousness of the violation. All defendants who receive a citation must respond to the allegations on the citation. Refer to the back of your citation or contact the court for procedures regarding misdemeanors.

Civil Infraction Informal Hearing

A hearing conducted by a magistrate involving the police officer, the defendant and any witnesses, held without a prosecutor or defense attorney.

Civil Infraction Formal Hearing

A hearing conducted only by a district court judge involving the police officer, defendant and all witnesses. The defendant may be represented by an attorney and a prosecutor must be present.

If you need to appear in court for a traffic or ordinance violation, be sure to bring the proper information with you.