

## **77th District Court Criminal Division**

The Criminal Division of District Court for Mecosta County has jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses (punishable by one year or less imprisonment). The court handles the case from arraignment through sentencing.

Felony cases (punishment over one year imprisonment) begin with an arraignment. A preliminary examination is held after arraignment. Following a preliminary examination in District Court, the case may be bound over to Circuit Court.

Most cases before the criminal division of the District Court will require a personal appearance before the Magistrate and/or Judge. The following list, but not limited to, are offenses that require a personal appearance on the date given to you by the arresting agency or jail:

- Driving While License Suspended (DWLS)
- Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)
- Operating While Visibly Impaired (OWVI)
- Transporting/Possession of Open Intoxicants in Motor Vehicle
- Minor in Possession of Alcohol
- Reckless Driving
- Trespass
- Non-Sufficient Funds Check
- Disorderly Person
- Assault & Battery
- Domestic Violence
- Malicious Destruction of Property/Building
- Resist and Obstruct a Police Officer
- Possession of Marijuana

There are other charges that may require your appearance.

### **Arraignments:**

When appearing for an arraignment, report to the Mecosta County Courthouse, District Court to check-in. Be sure to arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled arraignment time. For further information about your arraignment, contact the Criminal Division at (231) 592-0794.

### **Video Arraignments:**

Anyone in the custody of the county jail will be arraigned by an interactive video system. These arraignments are usually conducted between 3:00pm and 4:30pm before the

Magistrate. Visitors and observers are welcome to view these arraignments, but it is suggested that you call to verify time.

**Retaining an Attorney:**

If you have been charged with a felony, you may need an attorney to represent you. You should make arrangements to hire an attorney prior to your preliminary examination. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may petition the court for a court-appointed attorney. Forms are available from the court.

**Bonds:**

Bonds are held until sentencing or until dismissal of charges. Bonds posted by a defendant are applied to fines and costs, if any. Bonds that are posted by someone other than the defendant (third party) may be applied to fines and costs, if an Order to Apply bond is signed by the third-party poster.

**Sentencing:**

Per Michigan Court Rule 1.110, all fines and costs are due and payable on the date of sentencing.

**Payment:**

Please confirm the correct amount due by calling the court at (231) 592-0794 before making payment. (Quotes for fines and costs are good for the date you receive the quote only – late fees and other charges may be added if you delay payment beyond the due date).

**Accepted Methods of Payment:**

- Money order by mail to Mecosta County 77<sup>th</sup> District Court, 400 Elm St., Big Rapids, MI 49307
- Credit card Visa/MasterCard. Contact the court at (231) 592-0794.

**Court Hours and Contact Information**

**Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm, except holidays**

**Address: 400 Elm St. Big Rapids, MI 49307**

**Telephone: (231) 592-0799 – Civil**

**(232) 592-0794 – Criminal/Traffic**

**FAX: (231) 796-2180**