

1. Were you treated with respect and courtesy?

EXPLAIN: Yes, but only by the bailiff, not by the prosecuting attorney, when we (Paul, Kathy, my wife, and Kenneth, my son, the one who had received the ticket) tried to talk to him he said he didn't have time for us and gave us a half dozen excuses for not listening to us and tried to get us out of the building.

2. Were you told and explained of your options?

EXPLAIN: No. Our son is 16, and both of us were there, as required by the state for a minor receiving a traffic citation, when it came time for Kenneths' case to come to the judge, the prosecuting attorney called our son into the hallway and talked to him for several minutes. He had our son sign some paperwork then left him in the hallway. Our son called us out into the hallway and told us what happened, that's when we found out the Pros. Att. told our son that the officer had not shown up and that he would have to reschedule a new court time, or take Defensive Driving and he could get out of his ticket that way. It has since come to our attention that we were to be present when our son was spoken to by any public official concerning the ticket. The other options were not told to our son either, such as talking to a judge at that time or speaking to the Head judge.

3. Where your questions, if any, answered to your satisfaction?

EXPLAIN: No. When we found out what was going on after talking to our son, we tried to talk to the Pros. Att., he said he didn't have time for us, he had other cases to take care of and besides, our son had signed the paper work already, and that, 'That's all there is to it.' We said no it's not, we came here to see a judge, and we both took off work to do this and should be allowed to speak to someone, even if the officer didn't show up. He said, ' I'm too busy right now', and walked off

4. If you requested to see a judge, were you allowed to do so?

EXPLAIN: No. See # 3.

5. Were you allowed to tell or explain your version?

EXPLAIN: No. We were not permitted to see a judge.

6. Do you have any complaints; if so,

EXPLAIN: This was our first and hopefully our last contact with the judicial system in Corpus Christi. Your system is not revolving around justice, but in getting the money or get the people out of the court room as fast as possible, guilty, not-guilty, or just curious, are coerced into the easy way out for the courts! We brought our son down there so we could all learn about how the courts work, and to see if justice is indeed the name of the game. That is not what we found at all, we were ignored, pushed into something that was not what we came to do, and were made to feel like we were taking up the judges, and the Prosecuting Attorney's time, and should just pay and get out, or take another day off work, and school, and come down there to the court house again and probably receive the same treatment. It was not our fault that the officer did not show up and should have been able to see the judge anyways. There was a judge in the cubicle not 10 feet away from us that could have come out and talked to us and explained the system, and that we could indeed have seen the presiding judge at that time, and not been made to come back, and not waste our time and that of the courts. Had it not been for the bailiff that we stopped in the hallway, who brought our problem to Judge Joe Garza, after we left, we would have been ignorant of the very poor way we had been treated. If there is any thing you can do to improve the way that traffic citations are handled, particularly when minors are involved, or when someone receives a citation and pleads not guilty, have the officer there, or offer the offender Defensive Driving at the time of pleading, it would save so much time and money for all concerned, not just in our case, but in all those that were there at the same time that ours took place were treated in the same manner.

7. Other comments: For those of us who try to stay within the limits of the law, and make a mistake, and are caught, please make the system work in a fair and just and economical way for all concerned, including the city's court system. and to show a little extra concern for minors who are totally ignorant of their options, and rights.

Thank you for your time and concern.

Paul L. Moore
Kathy Moore
Kenneth Moore



