Sue Schaub, Office Manager

86th District Court

GT County, MI

Civil Ordinance Infractions (CIO) formal hearings are before a Judge. The informal hearing is before a Magistrate but is not the usual hearing for civil infractions.

Fines and costs are roughly $200-$500 per charge.

The fees do not accumulate before the judgment. A default fee of $35 can be added.

There is no jury trial in civil infraction cases because there are no jury trials in Circuit Court. All circuit court hearings are held on zoom by defendant from their own computer or phone. Property owner without computer or phone access can go to courthouse and one will be setup for hearing use.

The process:

Ticket issued by zoning administrator but no request for a hearing made, then no hearing occurs.

Informal hearing. Decision made. 7 days to appeal to a formal hearing

Formal hearing. Township and property owner may have attorneys. Judge usually makes decision at the end of the hearing 99% of the time. Judge's decision can be appealed and go to Circuit Court.