

VAIL MUNICIPAL COURT

Entry of Plea and Request for a Pre-trial Conference

From:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____

Fax: _____

To:

**Vail Municipal Court
75 S Frontage Road
Vail, CO 81657**

Phone: 970-479-2129

Fax: 970-477-3412

I would like to enter a plea of not guilty to the charge of _____,
citation number _____, and request a pre-trial conference
by telephone with the prosecuting attorney. I will initiate the call on the pre-
arranged date and be at a phone so I can receive a call if the prosecutor needs to
return my phone call.

I have read and understand the Advisement of Rights.

Signature of Defendant

Date

VAIL MUNICIPAL COURT
75 SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD
VAIL, CO 81657

ADVISEMENT OF RIGHTS

The Vail Municipal Court is the judicial branch of the town government. If you are charged with a violation of the Town Ordinances, this is the Court in which you may be heard. It is the place and opportunity for you to defend yourself against an accusation that you have violated one of these Ordinances of the Town of Vail.

In every case, there is a presumption of law that you are innocent of the charge until competent evidence proves otherwise or you enter a plea of “guilty,” admitting the charge.

If you are charged with a violation, you have the right:

1. To remain silent. You need make no statement and any statement you make can and may be used against you.
2. To be fully informed of the charge against you.
3. To be represented by an attorney of your choice, and if you are an indigent person and qualify to request appointment of a lawyer.
4. To plead “guilty,” “not guilty,” or “nolo contendere” to the offense with which you are charged.
5. To a reasonable continuance for a good cause.
6. To a trial by jury. However, in order to qualify for a jury trial, you must request a trial by jury in writing within ten (10) days after the arraignment entry of a plea of “not guilty” and within that said time tender to the Court a jury fee of \$35.00, unless the fee be waived by the judge because of the indigence of the defendant. The case shall be tried by a jury of three (3), unless at the time of making the demand for the jury trial, the defendant shall request a greater number, but in no event shall more than six (6) jurors be allowed.
7. To call witness in your behalf and to have subpoenas issued by the Court without expense to you to compel attendance of witnesses.
8. To a list of prosecution witnesses prior to the time of the trial.
9. To cross-examine witnesses who testify against you.
10. To testify in your behalf as you desire.
11. To appeal this Court’s decision to Court of higher jurisdiction.

When you plead “guilty,” it is the same as saying “I did violate the law as charged in the complaint against me,” in which case, a hearing will be held by the Court during which you will be given an opportunity to state any factors or extenuating circumstances concerning the offense which you have thereby admitted.

When you plead “not guilty” you are entitled to a formal trial by the Court or jury to establish the facts and you will be given a date and time for trial. When your case comes to trial, the burden of proof rests with the prosecution and the charge to be sustained by the Court must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

When you plead “nolo contendere” or “no contest,” it means that you neither admit or deny the charge, but you are not contesting it. A person who pleads nolo contendere can be given the same sentence as if that person had pleaded guilty.

I, _____
Have read the Advisement of Rights and
Understand the same.

Buck Allen III
Vail Municipal Court Judge

Defendant

Date

MUNICIPAL COURT GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADVISEMENT	First appearance by a defendant in a criminal case where you are formally advised of your rights and the pleas that could be entered.
ARRAIGNMENT	Court proceeding in which the criminal charges are read in open court to the defendant and a plea entered to the charges.
BAIL (BOND)	The release of arrested or imprisoned person when security, cash, or property is given or pledged to insure their appearance in court at a future date.
BENCH WARRANT	Process issued by the court for a persons arrest.
BOND FORFEITURE	Court action taken against a defendant or surety for a defendant's failure to appear while on bond.
CHARGE	Included in the summons and complaint, an accusation of violation of law.
CONVICTION	The judgement by the court or jury finding the defendant guilty of committing a criminal offense. In a criminal trial, the judgement that the defendant is guilty and a sentence is imposed.
COUNSEL	Lawyer or group of lawyers representing a client.
DEFENDANT	A person accused.

DEFERRED SENTENCE	A plea agreement in which a defendant enters a plea of guilty and the case is continued for sentencing.
DISMISSAL	The final order or judgement disposing of an action without a trial of the issues involved.
DISPOSITION	The sentencing or other final settlement of a criminal case.
JURY	A group of people sworn to hear evidence, to inquire into the facts in a legal case, and to give a decision according to their findings.
ORDINANCE	A law passed by a city or town law-making body,
PLEA	To deliver in a formal manner the defendant's answer to the plaintiff's declaration, complaint, or to the indictment.
PLEA BARGAIN	A compromise between the defendant and the prosecution where the defendant pleads guilty to an amended or a lesser charge.
PRE-TRIAL	An informal conference between the defendant and the prosecution and the court to clarify and narrow the issues and to attempt to work out a settlement.
PROSECUTOR	A lawyer who represents the government in bringing legal proceedings against an alleged wrongdoer.
STAY OF EXECUTION	When a person sentenced by the court is granted time to complete the sentence.
SUMMONS	A document notifying a person that an action has commenced and requiring the person to appear before the court.
TRIAL TO THE COURT	A trial held before a judge sitting without a jury.
VERDICT	The formal decision or finding made by the jury upon the matters or questions submitted to them.