

## Palmyra Municipal Court

### **CASES HEARD IN MUNICIPAL COURT**

There are four basic types of cases that are heard in municipal court:

- \*Violations of Motor Vehicle and Traffic Laws (Title 39)
- \*Violations of Disorderly Persons and Petty Disorderly Persons Offenses
- \* Violations of Fish and Game laws, Parks and Forests, Weights and Measures, SPCA and Boating Regulations
- \*Violations of Municipal Ordinances

More serious offenses, known as indictable offenses, are sent to the Burlington County Prosecutor's office. That office decides whether to present the case to a Grand Jury or downgrade it to a less serious offense and return it to the Municipal Court. If you are charged with an indictable offense you will be required to appear in Municipal Court on the date and time on your summons for what's known as your "first appearance". At this appearance the Judge will explain to you your rights and ask you if you want to hire an attorney or apply for a public defender. The court will also provide information on the PTI or "Pre Trial Intervention" program.

### **What are the possible penalties?**

#### **Fines**

The Judge must follow the law when imposing any fines. Sometimes, there are minimum penalties and mandatory assessments that must be imposed. In certain instances, your license may be suspended. **You can not drive for any reason if your driver's license is suspended. Once the period of suspension is over you must pay a restoration fee to the NJ**

**Motor Vehicle Commission and receive written notification that you are restored.**

## **Jail**

In some cases the Judge may impose a jail term. The maximum jail term that can be imposed for a disorderly persons' offense is 6 months. If the Judge imposes a jail sentence in court, you will be transported to the Burlington County jail immediately following court.

## **After Your Case is Heard**

If you have been assessed fines, please proceed out of the court room to the violations window to the left. Fines are expected to be paid that day. In certain cases, the Judge may allow you to make payment arrangements. You will be required to fill out a financial questionnaire, and the Judge will decide on a payment plan. You will be required to sign an order agreeing to the terms of the plan. You will be responsible for making your payments on time and in agreement with the order. We do not send out reminders. Failure to comply with this order may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest and your driving privileges may be suspended.