

What I want to say in court

July 2012

Fill in this checklist to help you reply to the magistrate. Write notes in the spaces below.

You can read from these notes in court but make sure you look at the magistrate too.

Support people

Who is at court supporting you? The magistrate may ask these people questions.

About the offence

How and why did the offence happen? For example, why were you driving?

What you have done to make up for it?

For example, you paid for the damage caused, you were co-operative with police, you have apologised to the victim.

What have you learned and how do you feel about what you did?

What you are doing to stop the behaviour happening again?

For example, sorting out any drug or alcohol problems, seeing a counsellor or social worker, selling your car.

Are there any personal problems that may explain your situation? For example, do you have a disability?

Personal details

Age: _____ Relationship status: Single Married De facto

Any children? Write their ages too: _____

Are you are working, on a Centrelink benefit or studying? _____

What is your income each week? What are the main things you pay for every week?

| | | | |
|---------------|----|--|----|
| Income | \$ | Loan or debt repayments | \$ |
| Rent/mortgage | \$ | Fixed expenses (for example, medication) | \$ |

Losing your licence

If the matter is about a traffic offence and you may lose your licence, explain why you need to keep your licence. For example, to use for your work or to pick up your children. Remember that for some driving matters the magistrate has no discretion and must take away your licence.

Conviction

Explain why you do not want a conviction. For example, a conviction might make it harder to stay in your current job or harder to get certain jobs in the future.
