

May 12, 2003

Ms. Vera Downen  
City Recorder  
Town of LaGrange  
P.O. Box 621  
LaGrange, Tennessee 38046

Dear Ms. Downen:

I contacted our police consultant, Rex Barton with the following question:

If a police office charges an offender with two different charges on the same ticket, such as speeding and reckless driving, do you charge him two court costs or just one, since it is on the same ticket? If the person failed to appear, would he be charged with two counts of failing to appear or just one?

His answer:

If the charges are on one ticket, it probably ought to be put in the docket book as two charges but one "case", or one docket entry. According to the state attorney general, court costs are assessed on cases, not charges, thus one court cost and one charge of failure to appear. If there were two docket entries, there would be two "cases" and two court costs.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

**MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE**

Ronnie Neill  
Municipal Consultant