

M.R. 3140

**IN THE
SUPREME COURT
OF
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Order entered July 20, 2021.

(Deleted material is struck through, and new material is underscored.)

Effective immediately, Illinois Supreme Court Rules 503, 529, 530, 531, and 553 are amended, as follows. Additionally, Rule 556 is amended, *nunc pro tunc*, to July 1, 2021.

Amended Rule 503

Rule 503. Multiple Charges under These Rules

(a) Amount of Bail-Hearing Date. Police officers should refrain from issuing multiple citations for offenses arising out of the same occurrence. A person arrested and charged with more than one offense arising out of the same occurrence when the bail is established for each such offense under Rule 526, 527 or 528 shall be released from custody as follows:

(1) If bail for each such offense is established by Rule 526, and the accused is eligible for release on each charge by a promise to comply pursuant to section 6-308 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended (625 ILCS 5/6-308), no court appearance shall be required if all such charges are satisfied under Rule 529.

(2) In all other cases, the accused shall be released from custody after posting bail on the charge for which the highest bail is required, and, except as provided below, a court appearance shall be required on each charge. Whether a court appearance will be required for any other offenses charged at the same time as an offense requiring bail under Rule 526(b)(1) will be determined without regard to such truck violations. A separate bail shall be required for each case involving truck violations under Rule 526(b)(1) or similar municipal ordinances, and all such charges may be satisfied without a court appearance, if all such charges are satisfied under Rule 531.

~~—(3) No court appearance shall be required under this rule where all charges are traffic and conservation offenses which may be satisfied without a court appearance under Rules 529, 530, or 531 and the accused elects to post separate cash bail on each such charge.~~

(34) No court appearance shall be required under this rule where all charges are traffic offenses which may be satisfied without a court appearance under Rule 529, the separate bails required for all such charges do not exceed \$500, and the accused has deposited an approved bond certificate in lieu of bail.

All such charges, whenever practicable, should be set for hearing on the same day in the same court, to be disposed of at the same time (see Rule 501(b) for definition of “Cash Bail”).

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**SUPREME COURT
CLERK**

(b) New Bail—Application of Bail and Return of Balance. After final disposition of a charge for which bail was posted, the court shall set new bail in a single amount to cover any concurrent charges which may be continued for further hearing at a future date. The clerk may apply any cash or security originally posted as bail to payment of any fine, penalties, assessments, and costs due on the charge for which bail was originally posted or any other charge disposed of at the same time, but shall return any remaining balance to the accused and shall not retain the balance to apply, in whole or in part, to any new bail set by the court, without the consent of the accused.

Amended effective October 7, 1970; amended February 17, 1977, effective April 1, 1977, in counties other than Cook, effective July 1, 1977, in Cook County; amended December 22, 1981, effective January 15, 1982; amended April 27, 1984, effective July 1, 1984; amended June 26, 1987, effective August 1, 1987; amended June 19, 1989, effective August 1, 1989; amended December 7, 1990, effective January 1, 1991; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended September 30, 2002, effective immediately; amended June 11, 2009, effective immediately; amended August 6, 2010, effective September 15, 2010; amended December 30, 2014, eff. Jan. 1, 2015; amended Dec. 29, 2017, eff. Jan. 1, 2018; amended June 8, 2018, eff. July 1, 2018; amended Dec. 10, 2018, eff. Jan. 1, 2019; amended Mar. 8, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended July 20, 2021, eff. immediately.

Amended Rule 529

Rule 529. Written Pleas of Guilty in Minor Traffic Offenses

(a) Minor Traffic Offenses. All minor traffic offenses, except those requiring a court appearance under Rule 551 and those involving offenses set out in Rule 526(b)(1), may be satisfied without a court appearance by a written plea of guilty, including electronic pleas as authorized by the Supreme Court, and payment of an amount equal to the Schedule 12 assessment, as provided in section 15-60 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-60). ~~Per the Act, only one scheduled assessment shall be applied regardless of the number of citations issued and prosecuted together.~~ If the defendant fails to satisfy the charges and fails to appear at the date set for appearance, the court shall address the charges in accordance with Rule 556. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this Rule 529, no other fines, fees, penalties, assessments, or costs shall be assessed in any case which is disposed of on a written plea of guilty without a court appearance under this Rule 529.

(a-1) Multiple Citations Issued. Per the Act, only one scheduled assessment shall be applied regardless of the number of citations issued and prosecuted together. The schedule applicable to the highest classified offense shall be imposed. Where two or more offenses of the same class are prosecuted together, the higher assessment shall be imposed.

(b) Supervision on Written Pleas of Guilty. In counties designated by the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges, the circuit court may by rule or order authorize the entry of an order of supervision under section 5-6-3.1 of the Unified Code of Corrections (730 ILCS 5/5-6-3.1), for a minor traffic offenses satisfied pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Rule 529. This provision does not apply where multiple offenses are charged arising out of the same occurrence. Such circuit court rule or order may include but does not require a program by which the accused, upon payment of

an amount equal to the Schedule 12 assessment, as provided in section 15-60 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-60), agrees to attend and successfully complete a traffic safety program approved by the court under standards set by the Conference. The accused shall be responsible for payment of any traffic safety program fees. If the accused fails to file a certificate of successful completion on or before the termination date of the supervision order, the supervision shall be summarily revoked and conviction entered. A traffic safety program provider may be authorized to file a certificate of completion on behalf of the accused; however, it is the responsibility of the accused to ensure that the certificate is timely filed. Any county designated by the Conference pursuant to this rule may opt-out of this rule upon notification to the Conference by the chief judge of the circuit and rescinding any rule or order entered to establish supervision on written pleas of guilty.

(c) The provisions of Supreme Court Rule 402 relating to pleas of guilty do not apply in cases where a defendant enters a guilty plea under this rule. The clerk of the circuit court shall disburse the monies collected under this Rule 529 in accordance with the Schedule 12 assessment, as provided in section 15-60 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-60).

Amended effective October 7, 1970; amended February 17, 1977, effective April 1, 1977, in counties other than Cook, effective July 1, 1977, in Cook County; amended September 20, 1979, effective October 15, 1979; amended December 22, 1981, effective January 15, 1982; amended April 27, 1984, effective July 1, 1984; amended March 27, 1985, effective May 1, 1985; amended June 26, 1987, effective August 1, 1987; amended June 19, 1989, effective August 1, 1989; amended December 20, 1991, effective January 1, 1992; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended January 20, 1993, effective immediately; amended May 24, 1995, effective January 1, 1996; amended April 1, 1998, effective immediately; amended March 16, 2001, effective immediately; amended December 5, 2003, effective January 1, 2004; amended August 6, 2010, effective September 15, 2010; amended December 7, 2011, effective immediately; amended Dec. 29, 2017, eff. Jan. 1, 2018; amended Mar. 8, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended Dec. 9, 2020, eff. Jan. 1, 2021; amended July 20, 2021, eff. immediately.

Committee Comments
(December 5, 2003)

Under present Supreme Court Rule 529 (Fines, Penalties and Costs on Written Pleas of Guilty in Minor Traffic and Conservation Offenses), cash bail is distributed on pleas of guilty, where a court appearance is not required, by deducting applicable costs, including clerk's fees (705 ILCS 105/27/1a, 27.2 or 27.2a, as the case may be), Automation Fee (705 ILCS 105/27.3a), Document Storage Fee (705 ILCS 105/27.3c) and Fee to Finance the Court System (55 ILCS 5/5-110). The balance is then distributed by the clerk to the Traffic and Criminal Conviction Surcharge (TCCS) and LEADS Maintenance Fund (730 ILCS 5/5-9-1(c)), Driver's Education Fund (Driver's Ed) (625 ILCS 5/16-104a), Violent Crime Assistance Fund (VCVA) (725 ILCS 240/10(b)) (VCVA is not assessed in speeding violation cases), Trauma Center Fund (625 ILCS 5/16-104(b)), if applicable, and the entity entitled to receive the fine.

The proposed amendments to Rules 529(a) and 529(b) would exclude electronic pleas and eliminate itemized distribution by the clerk of the funds noted above and, instead, after first

deducting the Automation Fee and Document Storage Fee, distribute the bail for traffic offenses along the present line of section 27.6 of the Clerk's of Court Act (705 ILCS 105/27.6) in the following percentages: 44.5% to the entity entitled to receive the fine, 38.675% to the county's general fund, and 16.825% to the state Treasurer. Under Rule 529(b), since conservation offenses are not included under section 27.6, bail would be distributed as follows: 67% to the entity entitled to receive the fine, 16.175% to the county's general fund, and 16.825% to the state Treasurer, which is similar to the current disbursement of these amounts.

The \$5 Fee to Finance the Court System (55 ILCS 5/5-1101) is distributed to the county's general fund under the present rule on an itemized basis, and would be included in the 38.675% disbursed to the county's general fund under proposed amended Rule 529(a).

The Court Security Fee (55 ILCS 5/5-1103) is not included either in present Rule 529, or the proposed amendment, since the statute requires a court appearance by the violator before the assessment of this fee.

By way of background, the percentage distribution formula under 705 ILCS 105/27.6 became effective on January 1, 1993, and has been adopted for the assessment of fines, fees, costs and forfeitures in 10 counties throughout the state, including Cook County, for violations of the Vehicle Code.

Supreme Court Rule 526 (Bail Schedules-Traffic Offenses), Rule 527 (Bail Schedule-Conservation Offenses) and Rule 529 (Fines, Penalties and Costs on Written Pleas of Guilty in Minor Traffic and Conservation Offenses), among others, were amended on June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992, increasing bail in minor traffic cases from \$50 to \$75 and from \$75 to \$95 since the amount of fines received by the municipalities was being reduced by legislative "add-ons."

The committee does not believe Supreme Court Rule 529, in its present form, provides adequate direction to the circuit clerks in the distribution of funds under this rule. For instance, a problem arises in the calculation of the TCCS/LEADS Fund which requires the court to assess an additional penalty of \$5 for each \$40, or fraction thereof, of fine imposed, and the Driver's Ed Fund and VCVA, which requires the court to assess an additional penalty of \$4 for each \$40, or fraction thereof, of fine imposed. This, by necessity, involves the use of a multiplier. To arrive at the multiplier, the clerk must divide the fine by 40 when a fine plus costs is assessed, or follow the method prescribed under 730 ILCS 5/5-9-1(c) (TCCS/LEADS Maintenance Fund), 725 ILCS 240/10(b) (VCVA) and 625 ILCS 5/16-104a (Driver's Ed) when the court levies "a gross amount for fine, costs, fees and penalties." The committee concluded that an assessment under Rule 529 was not a "levy of a gross amount."

Under the current rule, the fine is represented as the "balance of the bail," and is the amount remaining after deducting various costs and fees. Therefore, since the court has not assessed a specific fine, the clerk has no exact amount to divide by 40 and is left to reach his or her own conclusion as the correct multiplier. In certain instances if the clerk computes these additional penalties with a multiplier of 1, it results in a fine which is greater than \$40; if a multiple of 2 is used, it results in a fine of less than \$40.

Chief Justice Benjamin K. Miller, in the Supreme Court's Annual Report to the Legislature dated January 31, 1991, discussed the "plethora of user fees and surcharges enacted by the General

Assembly,” then concluded that “[t]he complexity of the structure of various charges is such that they are not uniform, and are confusing. It has been impossible for the court system to apply the charge in a consistent and coherent manner.”

The Article V Committee agrees, and in order to enhance uniformity and consistency throughout the state in the disbursement of fines, costs, penalties and forfeitures under Rule 529, it recommends a percentage disbursement of funds upon pleas of guilty in traffic and conservation cases which are satisfied without a court appearance by the violator. The committee believes this disbursement, which would be made monthly to all entities, would be fair to all concerned, increase the efficiency of the clerks, and substantially reduce the possibility of error.

As an example of the continuing dilemma facing the circuit clerks, Public Act 93-32, effective June 20, 2003, directs that an “additional penalty of \$4.00 shall be assessed by the court imposing a fine (upon a plea or finding of guilty in all traffic, criminal, conservation and local ordinance cases).” The funds are to be remitted by the circuit clerk to the state Treasurer and deposited in the Traffic and Criminal Surcharge Fund. The committee concluded the additional penalty under this act could not be collected or distributed under Rules 529 and 556 since the total amount of bail was already exhausted by other fines, fees and costs and the act itself provides that the additional penalty “shall not reduce or affect the distribution of any other fine, costs, fees and penalties.” The committee felt the only way to obtain the funds required under Public Act 93-32 would be: (1) order the offender to appear in court for the assessment of the \$4 additional penalty, or (2) increase the amount of bail under Rule 526. It considered the first option to be counterproductive. As to the second option, the committee noted Justice Heiple’s dissent when bail was increased under Rule 526 in 1992. In his dissent, he stated, “[W]hile the original purpose of enacting and enforcing highway traffic laws was public safety, this purpose has, in substantial measure, given way to the purpose of earning bounty revenues of government. Any bail figure, to the extent it exceeds the amount necessary to insure the presence of the defendant in court, is a misuse and abuse of the bail process.” The committee, after discussion, is not recommending the increase of bail under Rules 526 and 527.

The committee was also concerned about the 10 counties which distribute gross fines and costs pursuant to 705 ILCS 105/27.6, since this distribution would include money collected by the circuit clerk as a result of forfeiture of bonds, ex parte judgments or guilty pleas pursuant to Rule 529. Public Act 93-32 directs the court to assess an additional penalty; section 27.6 provides that “(f) or offenses subject to this section, judges shall impose one total sum of money payable for violations. The circuit clerk may add on no additional amounts except for amounts that are required by Sections 27.3a and 27.3c of this Act.” The inconsistency between the two acts places the circuit clerks in a quandary, particularly in those counties operating under section 27.6.

The committee has recommended the circuit clerks be given a clear and definite direction concerning distribution of funds under this rule and believes the proposed amendment would provide that direction.

Amended Rule 530

Rule 530. Written Pleas of Guilty in Conservation Offenses

(a) **Conservation Offenses.** Conservation offenses, as defined in section 1-5 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/1-5), for which cash bail is required under Rule 527(a), may be satisfied without a court appearance by a written plea of guilty, including electronic pleas as authorized by the Supreme Court, and payment of an amount equal to the Schedule 11 assessment, as provided in section 15-55 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-55). ~~Per the Act, only one scheduled assessment shall be applied regardless of the number of citations issued and prosecuted together.~~ If the defendant fails to satisfy the charges and fails to appear at the court appearance, the court shall address the charges in accordance with Rule 556. No other fines, fees, penalties, assessments, or costs shall be assessed in any case that is disposed of on a written plea of guilty without a court appearance under this Rule 530.

(a-1) Multiple Citations Issued. Per the Act, only one scheduled assessment shall be applied regardless of the number of citations issued and prosecuted together. The schedule applicable to the highest classified offense shall be imposed. Where two or more offenses of the same class are prosecuted together, the higher assessment shall be imposed.

(b) The provisions of Supreme Court Rule 402 relating to pleas of guilty do not apply in cases where a defendant enters a guilty plea under this Rule 530. The clerk of the circuit court shall disburse monies collected under this Rule 530 in accordance with the Schedule 11 assessment, as provided in section 15-55 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-55).

Adopted Mar. 8, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended Dec. 9, 2020, eff. Jan. 1, 2021; amended July 20, 2021, eff. immediately.

Amended Rule 531

Rule 531. Written Pleas of Guilty in Overweight and Permit Offenses

(a) **Overweight and Permit Offenses.** A charge for violating section 3-401(d), 15-111, or offenses punishable by fine pursuant to sections 15-113 .1, 15-113 .2, or 15-113.3 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (truck overweight and permit moves) (625 ILCS 5/3-401(d), 15-111, 15-113.1 through 15-113.3), or similar municipal ordinances may be satisfied without a court appearance by a written plea of guilty and payment of the minimum fine fixed by statute, plus an amount equal to the Schedule 10.5 assessment, as provided in section 15-52 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-52). ~~Per the Act, only one scheduled assessment shall be applied regardless of the number of citations issued and prosecuted together.~~ If the defendant fails to satisfy the charges and fails to appear at the court appearance, the court shall address the charges in accordance with Rule 556. No other fines, penalties, assessments, or costs shall be assessed in any case that is disposed of on a written plea of guilty without a court appearance under this Rule 531.

(a-1) Multiple Citations Issued. Per the Act, only one scheduled assessment shall be applied

regardless of the number of citations issued and prosecuted together. The schedule applicable to the highest classified offense shall be imposed. Where two or more offenses of the same class are prosecuted together, the higher assessment shall be imposed.

(b) The provisions of Supreme Court Rule 402 relating to pleas of guilty do not apply in cases where a defendant enters a guilty plea under this Rule 531. The clerk of the circuit court shall disburse the fines collected under this Rule 531 in accordance with Sections 15-113 and 16-105 of the Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/15-113, 16-105) and shall disburse the assessments collected under this Rule 531 in accordance with the Schedule 10.5 assessment, as provided in section 15-52 of the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/15-52).

Adopted Mar. 8, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended Dec. 9, 2020, eff. Jan. 1, 2021; amended July 20, 2021, eff. immediately.

Amended Rule 553

Rule 553. Posting Bail or Bond

(a) **By Whom and Where Taken.** The several circuit clerks, deputy circuit clerks and law enforcement officers designated by name or office by the chief judge of the circuit are authorized to let to bail any person arrested for or charged with an offense covered by Rules 526, 527 and 528. Upon designation by the chief judge of the circuit, bail may be taken in accordance with this article in any county, municipal or other building housing governmental units, police station, sheriff's office or jail, district headquarters building of the Illinois State Police, weigh station, or portable scale unit established for enforcement of truck violations under Rule 526(b)(1) or similar municipal ordinances. Bail deposits by credit card, debit card or by any other electronic means may only be accepted upon the approval of the chief judge and the circuit clerk's ability to accept such deposits. Individual bonds under paragraph (d) of this rule may additionally be taken as designated by the chief judge of the circuit.

(b) **Copy of Bond-Receipt for Cash Bail.** A copy of the bond or an official receipt showing the amount of cash bail posted, specifying the time and place of court appearance, shall be furnished to the accused and shall constitute a receipt for bail. The bond or cash bail, or both, shall be delivered to, deposited with, or otherwise transmitted to the office of the circuit clerk of the county in which the violation occurred within 48 hours of receipt or within the time set for the accused's appearance in court, whichever is earlier (see Rule 501(b) for definition of "Cash Bail"). Each delivery, deposit, or transmission shall identify the Complaint(s) associated with the amounts delivered, deposited, or otherwise transmitted.

(c) **Driver's License or Bond Certificate.** If an accused deposits a driver's license with the arresting officer in lieu of bail or in addition to bail, or deposits a bond certificate, the arresting officer shall note that fact on the accused's copy of the ticket and transmit the driver's license or bond certificate to the clerk within the time provided in paragraph (b) of this rule.

(d) **Individual Bond.** Persons arrested for or charged with an offense covered by Rules 526, 527 and 528 who are unable to secure release from custody under these rules may be released by giving individual bond (in the amount required by this article) by those law enforcement officers

designated by name or office by the chief judge of the circuit, except when the accused is (1) unable or unwilling to establish his or her identity or submit to being fingerprinted as required by law, (2) is charged with an offense punishable by imprisonment and will pose a danger to any person or the community, or (3) elects release on separate bail under Rule 503(a)(3) ~~or 503(a)(4)~~. Persons required to deposit both bail and driver's license under Rule 526(e) may be released on \$1,000 individual bond and his or her current Illinois driver's license. If authorized by the chief judge of the circuit, individual bonds under this paragraph (d) may be executed by signing the citation or complaint agreeing to comply with its conditions, except that when the individual bond is for a petty traffic offense, no signature shall be required. Court-approved electronic signatures are allowed.

(e) Alternative Procedure in Minor Cases—Counties Other Than Cook. In any case, excluding citations written by local law enforcement in Cook County, in which the bail or bond specified by Rule 526, 527 or 528 does not exceed \$300 in United States currency, an accused not required to be fingerprinted may post bond by giving the United States currency to the sworn law enforcement officer. The officer shall provide the accused with a copy of the citation duly noted with the amount of the United States currency posted as bond. The accused shall then be released from custody. In such cases, the officer will deliver the appropriate portion(s) of the ticket along with the United States currency as bond(s) to the clerk of the circuit court or a designated building approved by the issuing law enforcement agency and approved by the receiving law enforcement agency before the end of his or her current tour of duty.

Amended effective October 7, 1970; amended February 17, 1977, effective April 1, 1977, in counties other than Cook, effective July 1, 1977, in Cook County; amended October 17, 1979, effective November 15, 1979; amended December 22, 1981, effective January 15, 1982; amended June 26, 1987, effective August 1, 1987; amended December 7, 1990, effective January 1, 1991; amended June 12, 1992, effective July 1, 1992; amended May 24, 1995, effective January 1, 1996; amended June 11, 2009, effective immediately; amended August 6, 2010, effective September 15, 2010; amended December 7, 2011, effective immediately; amended Dec. 29, 2017, eff. Jan. 1, 2018; amended Dec. 10, 2018, eff. Jan. 1, 2019; amended Mar. 8, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended July 20, 2021, eff. immediately.

Amended Rule 556

Rule 556. Procedure if Defendant Fails to Appear or Satisfy Charge

(a) Court Appearance Not Required.

(1) If a person accused of an offense that does not require a court appearance under Rule 551 does not satisfy the charge pursuant to Rules 529, 530, or 531 or does not appear on the date set for appearance, or any date to which the case may be continued, the court may enter an *ex parte* judgment of conviction ~~imposing a single assessing fines, penalties, assessments, and costs in an amount equal to specified in~~ the applicable assessment Schedule 10, 10.5, or 11 for the charged offense, as provided in the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/1 *et seq.*), plus the minimum fine allowed by statute. If the defendant submits payment for an offense under Rule 529 but fails to execute the required plea of guilty, the court may enter

an *ex parte* judgment against the defendant but may elect to impose only the assessment applicable under Rule 529 (*i.e.*, Schedule 12). Payment received for fines, penalties, assessments, and costs assessed following the entry of an *ex parte* judgment shall be disbursed by the clerk pursuant to the schedule assessed under the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/1 *et seq.*) and any other applicable statute. The clerk of the court shall notify the Secretary of State of the conviction pursuant to Rule 552, ~~and if the accused is an Illinois registered driver, the clerk shall notify the Secretary of State of any unsatisfied judgment pursuant to section 6-306.6(a) of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended (625 ILCS 5/6-306.6(a)).~~

(2) In lieu of the foregoing procedure, if a person accused of an offense that does not require a court appearance under Rule 551 does not satisfy the charge pursuant to Rules 529, 530, or 531 or does not appear on the date set for appearance, or any date to which the case may be continued, the court may enter an order declaring bail, if any, to be forfeited, and the court shall continue the case for a minimum of 30 days. The clerk shall send notice of the court's order to the defendant at his or her last known address. If the defendant does not appear on the continued court date or, within that period, satisfy the court that his or her appearance is impossible and without any fault on his or her part, the court shall enter an order for failure to appear to answer the charge. In addition to forfeiture, a verified charge may be filed (if none has previously been filed), and a summons or warrant of arrest for the defendant may be issued. Within 21 days after the date to which the case has been continued for a traffic offense, the clerk shall notify the Secretary of State of the court's order of failure to appear. The Secretary of State shall, in the case of an Illinois licensed driver who has deposited his or her driver's license, immediately suspend the defendant's driving privileges in accordance with section 6-308 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended (625 ILCS 5/6-308); if the defendant is not an Illinois licensed driver or resident, the Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate driver's licensing authority. The clerk of the circuit court shall notify the Secretary of State of the final disposition of the case as provided in Rule 552 when the defendant has appeared and otherwise satisfied his or her obligations following an order for failure to appear.

(3) In all cases in which a court appearance is not required under Rule 551, the defendant shall be provided with a statement, in substantially the following form, on the "Complaint" or on the bond form:

"If you do not satisfy the charge against you prior to the date set for appearance or if you fail to appear in court when required, you consent to the entry of a judgment against you in the amount of all applicable fines, penalties, assessments, and costs; cash bail or other security you have deposited will be applied toward payment."

(b) Court Appearance Required.

(1) If a person accused of an offense punishable by fine only that requires a court appearance under Rule 551 does not appear on the date set for appearance or any date to which the case may be continued, the court may, with concurrence of the prosecuting agency, enter an *ex parte* judgment of conviction imposing a single assessment, specified in and in so doing shall assess an amount equal to the applicable assessment Schedule 9, 10, 10.5, 11, or 13 for the charged offense as provided in the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 135/ 1

et seq.), plus the minimum fine allowed by statute. Payment received for fines, penalties, assessments, and costs assessed following the entry of an *ex parte* judgment shall be disbursed by the clerk pursuant to the disbursement of the schedule assessed under the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act (705 ILCS 13 5-1 *et seq.*) and any other applicable statute. The clerk of the court shall notify the Secretary of State of the conviction pursuant to Rule 552, ~~and if the accused is an Illinois registered driver, the clerk shall notify the Secretary of State of any unsatisfied judgment pursuant to section 6-306.6(a) of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended (625 ILCS 5/6-306.6(a)).~~

(2) For offenses punishable by a term of imprisonment of less than one year, and in lieu of the foregoing procedure for offenses punishable by fine only that require a court appearance under Rule 551, if a defendant fails to appear on the date set for appearance, or any date to which the case may be continued, and a court appearance is required, the court may enter an order declaring the bail to be forfeited and shall continue the case for a minimum of 30 days. The clerk shall send notice of the court's order to the defendant at his or her last known address. If the accused does not appear on the continued court date or, within that period, satisfy the court that his or her appearance is impossible and without any fault on his or her part, the court shall

(i) enter judgment in accordance with sections 110-7 or 110-8 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963, as amended (725 ILCS 5/110-7, 110-8). In addition to forfeiture, a verified charge may be filed and a summons or warrant of arrest may issue or

(ii) enter an order for failure to appear to answer the charge. Upon an entry of an Order for Failure to Appear for a traffic offense, within 21 days after the date to which the case had been continued, the clerk shall notify the Secretary of State of the court's order. The Secretary of State shall, in the case of an Illinois licensed driver who has deposited his or her driver's license, immediately suspend the defendant's driving privileges in accordance with section 6-308 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as amended (625 ILCS 5/6-308); if the defendant is not an Illinois licensed driver or resident, the Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate driver's licensing authority. The clerk of court shall notify the Secretary of State of the final disposition as provided in Rule 552 when the defendant has appeared and otherwise satisfied his or her obligation following an order for failure to appear.

Amended effective October 7, 1970; amended February 17, 1977, effective April 1, 1977, in counties other than Cook, effective July 1, 1977, in Cook County; amended December 22, 1981, effective January 15, 1982; amended April 27, 1984, effective July 1, 1984; amended June 26, 1987, effective August 1, 1987; amended June 19, 1989, effective August 1, 1989; amended December 7, 1990, effective January 1, 1991; amended May 24, 1995, effective January 1, 1996; amended October 22, 1999, effective December 1, 1999; amended December 5, 2003, effective January 1, 2004; amended December 30, 2014, eff. Jan. 1, 2015; amended June 8, 2018, eff. July 1, 2018; amended Dec. 10, 2018, eff. Jan. 1, 2019; amended Mar. 8, 2019, eff. July 1, 2019; amended June 9, 2020, eff. July 1, 2020; amended July 20, 2021, eff. July 1, 2021, *nunc pro tunc*.

Committee Comments
(December 10, 2018)

Effective January 1, 2019, Rule 501(g) no longer requires that a promise to comply be written.

(June 8, 2018)

“For a fine only offense where the minimum statutory fine is greater than the cash bail amount, the fines, penalties, and costs assessed shall be equal to the minimum statutory fine in whole dollars” language was added to eliminate conflicts between bail amounts that are not equal to minimum statutory fines; if a prosecuting agency agrees to an *ex parte* judgment, defendants are being assessed widely differing fine amounts. For example, violations of operating without insurance (625 ILCS 5/3-707) require bail of \$2000 under Rule 526(d). However, the statute states “a person shall be required to pay a fine in excess of \$500, but not more than \$1,000.” Defendants were being assessed fines in various amounts, and in some cases, defendants that did not appear in court and the court entered an *ex parte* judgment paid a lower fine than a defendant that appeared in court as required by the Rule. A variety of fine amounts were being assessed, such as: a fine of \$200 (10% of the bail amount), a fine of \$500.01 or \$501 under statute, a fine of \$1000 under statute, or a fine of \$2,000—the full bail amount under Rule 526(d). These amendments are meant to eliminate varying fine amounts being assessed to defendants. When the minimum statutory fine is “in excess of” or “more than” a specified amount, the court should assess the fine to the next whole dollar amount.

(December 5, 2003)

Supreme Court Rule 556 (“Procedure if Defendant Fails to Appear”) delineates several procedures if the defendant fails to appear after depositing a driver’s license in lieu of bond, executes a written promise to comply, posts bond or issued a notice to appear.

The rule provided that the court may “enter an *ex parte* judgment of conviction against any accused charged with an offense punishable by a fine only and in so doing shall assess fines, penalties and costs in an amount not to exceed the cash bail required by this article.” Rule 556 does not detail the specific costs and penalties, or their amounts, in the entry of *ex parte* judgments. The clerk is then left with deciding which costs, fees and additional penalties (and their amounts) should be applied. This is currently being determined on a county by county basis.

The committee concluded that distribution under Rule 556 was not a “levy of a gross amount.” See Rule 529, Committee Comments.

The committee believes that consistency and uniformity in disbursing funds from *ex parte* judgments was of the utmost importance in the efficient administration of justice and recommends that the fines, penalties, and costs assessed be equal to bail, and the distribution of those amounts should be pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 529(a). The State’s Attorney fee, if any, would be included within the county’s 38.675% distribution.