

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Chase County residents who receive tickets for traffic infractions now have two programs they can utilize to avoid court appearances, losing license points and paying citation fees.

The Traffic Safety Plus, or STOP program, is for lesser traffic infractions. The STAR program is just being implemented in Chase County, and is for slightly more serious traffic violations.

Chase County Attorney Arlan Wine calls the programs his “relief valve.” Instead of bargaining with people with tickets who are afraid of losing driving points, he can turn them to the STOP program.

STOP is for persons whose citations are for speeding but not more than 19 m.p.h. over the speed limit; disregarding traffic signs and signals; failure to yield the right-of-way; improper passing; following too closely; improper turns; exhibition of acceleration; or if a citation resulted from an accident without injury.

The four-hour course is held in Imperial, as well as McCook, Ogallala and Holdrege. It costs \$150 plus court costs.

The STAR program is an eight-hour program, costing \$300 plus court costs. It is held in North Platte and McCook. Wine said the program will probably be used most by people who speed 19 m.p.h. or more over the speed limit.

Wine has the right to refuse or accept any individual to either program.

“When you complete the course, the case gets dismissed, so there’s no record of conviction,” he noted. It also saves drivers license points and helps with insurance issues.

Both programs are sponsored by the Chase County Attorney’s Office and Traffic Safety Plus.

Registration must be completed within 10 working days after the receipt of the citation. For details call (402) 466-0033 or register on-line at <https://trafficsafetyplus.org>.