

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF APPEALS
OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**

CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Appellant,

v.

STATE OF TEXAS

Appellee.

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**No. 12-MCA-3568
TICKET No.: T0285511.3**

OPINION

Appellant appeals her conviction in Municipal Court for Failing to Maintain Financial Responsibility. A fine of \$200.00 was assessed.

Appellant contends that she was driving her boyfriend's car and was unaware that it was not insured. Since she did not own the vehicle, she does not feel responsible for the fine assessed against her. No proof of insurance covering the vehicle has been submitted to this Court or identifying the named insured which may have provided coverage to Appellant as a permissive user.

Appellant has also not provided to this Court any insurance that would identify her as an insured driver or provide coverage for any other vehicle she owns. Such a policy would extend to her driving someone else's vehicle with permission. It may be that she does not own a vehicle and therefore would be unable to produce such proof.

Nonetheless, Section 601.051, Tex. Transportation Code, states that a person may not operate a motor vehicle in this state unless Financial Responsibility is established for that vehicle. That section speaks to the operation of the vehicle and not its ownership. Therefore,

even if Appellant is not the owner, the fact that she was operating the vehicle at the time she was stopped would make her responsible for the offense.

Therefore, the judgment of the Trial Court is hereby affirmed.

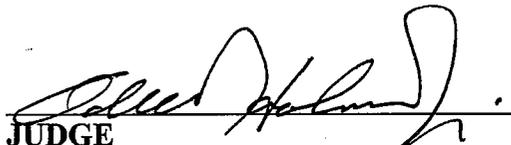
SIGNED this 21st day of June, 2012.


JUDGE

JUDGMENT

This case came on to be heard on the Transcript of the Record of the Court below, the same being considered, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the Court that this case be affirmed.

SIGNED this 21st day of June, 2012.


JUDGE