

Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

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Traffic Tickets

Are traffic cases criminal or civil?

Some are criminal, and some are civil. Consult with a lawyer if you have any questions.

Can I pay my ticket online without going to court?

Only if the offense is “prepayable” and the court accepts online payments.

If the summons you received indicates that the offense is “prepayable,” you may follow the instructions with the summons to pay your ticket without going to court. How soon you may use this prepayment option depends upon when the local court enters information regarding your case into the state database. Note: Most courts enter traffic ticket information within 10 business days.

If you “prepay,” you will be found guilty and points may be added to your license. See the DMV for more information about how a ticket impacts your license.

If you pay online or in person with a credit/debit card, there is a 4% convenience fee assessed per transaction.

If the court where your case is pending does not accept prepayments online, the offense with which you are charged is not “prepayable,” or if the local court has not entered information about your case into the state database, contact the court in the locality where your case is pending for further information.

How do I pay online?

You may find it helpful to preview sample payment slides.

Note, once you get started, you will need to select two things from the left hand column to find your ticket:

1. The local court (as listed on your summons) from the drag-down menu in the left column.

2. Use the *name search*, and enter your name EXACTLY as the officer wrote it on the Summons -- even if that means not spelling your name correctly.

While your e-mail address is not required, if entered, a receipt will be e-mailed to you. Also, be sure to print the final screen as a record of proof of payment. It can take up to two business days for a payment to be reflected in the online records.

Pay online through the Virginia District Court Online Case Information System

What if I lost my summons?

If you have lost your summons, you can call the local court in the area you were stopped (see map if you are unsure of the name of the county) or contact the law enforcement agency that issued the citation, which will be either the Virginia State Police or a local law enforcement agency.

Which court handles traffic cases?

Most traffic cases are handled by the General District Court in the locality where the ticket was issued.

 [Sample Traffic Ticket Payment Slides.pdf](#)

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