



MVA

TRAFFIC CITATIONS

This is not legal advice. Please consult an attorney about your particular situation.

WHAT'S YOUR TICKET TYPE?

- ◆ Check your traffic ticket for the words **"Payable"** or **"Must appear."** This will determine the options you have to respond to your ticket.
- ◆ If you have a **"Must appear"** traffic ticket, you'll need to visit the court on the date and time listed on your citation. Contact the appropriate office if you have further questions.

PAYABLE TICKETS

If you have a payable traffic citation, you must do one of the following within **30 days*** of receiving your ticket:

1. Pay the fine.

If you wish to simply plead guilty and pay your traffic ticket, you usually can pay online, by calling, in person, or by mail. Check your traffic ticket for payment options or go to www.dmv.org/md-maryland/traffic-tickets.php. The MVA may add points to your driving record. If you accumulate too many, your license could be suspended or revoked.

2. Plead 'guilty with an explanation'.

You may be able to have your fine reduced or waived by pleading "guilty with an explanation" by checking the appropriate box on your MD traffic ticket, signing and dating the ticket, and mailing the traffic ticket to the District Court Traffic Processing Center.

The district court will contact you with details of your court hearing. This appearance will not be a trial.

The MVA may add points to your driving record. If you accumulate too many, your license could be suspended or revoked.

3. Fight the Traffic Ticket

If you do not believe you are guilty of the violation on your traffic ticket, you can request a court hearing and plead "not guilty" by mail. Be sure to respond by the due date as the MD MVA may suspend your license. Your traffic ticket should have instructions on how to plead "not guilty." Once you submit your plea, the court will notify you of your court appearance date.

*If it has been more than 30 days since you received the ticket, please see the reverse side of this flyer.

GET LEGAL HELP

If you have a "Must appear" traffic ticket or if your ticket carries a fine of over \$500, you may be eligible for help from the Office of the Public Defender. For more information visit www.opd.state.md.us or call 1(877) 430-5187.

Published by Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS)

We do not provide representation in these types of cases



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FAILURE TO COMPLY IN 30 DAYS

If you fail to pay fine or appear in court in 30 days the district court will automatically notify the MVA. The MVA will mail you a notice that your license will be suspended unless you comply with the court requirements by the suspension date indicated on the notice.

To prevent suspension you must:

1. Pay the fine at the district court by calling 410.974.7177 or 1.800.492.2656 or online at www.paymentchek.com/MD/MarylandCourt *Payment of fine is admission of guilt and it will go on your driving record **OR**
2. Get a new trial date and post a penalty deposit with the court. *If the court imposes a fine you will be required to pay and failure to pay will lead to suspension of license until payment.

If requirements are not met by the suspension date then your license will be suspended until compliance. The suspension will remain on your driver record. If your fine is past 30 days and you cannot afford to pay the fines all at one time, contact the MVA's Customer Service Center at 410-768-7000 to request a payment plan.