

TRAFFIC COURT

A driver must respond to the **District Court** listed on a ticket (citation) on time. For civil infractions, there are several options.

ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY

Contact the court and pay the fines and costs.



ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY WITH EXPLANATION

Tell the court what happened. The court must find the driver responsible, but fines and costs may be reduced. Points remain the same.

DENY RESPONSIBILITY

Appear in court for a **hearing**. A driver must present a defense – a reason why they are not responsible. If a driver is found responsible, a judgment will be entered against them.

INFORMAL HEARING

Held before a **judge or magistrate** with the **driver, police officer**, and any witnesses. Neither side may have an attorney. There is a right to appeal to a judge in a formal hearing.



FORMAL HEARING

Held before a **judge** with the **driver, police officer**, and any witnesses. A **prosecuting attorney** will be with the officer. The driver may hire an **attorney**.



AT HEARINGS, DRIVERS MAY:

- Testify on their own behalf and have witnesses.
- Ask questions of the witnesses against them.
- Present documents or physical evidence.

