



# A TRAFFIC OR PARKING TICKET WHAT TO DO?

## WHAT TYPES OF CASES ARE HEARD IN TRAFFIC COURT?

The Traffic division in Marion County is set up to handle civil traffic infractions, non-criminal boating and fishing infractions, non-criminal city or county ordinances, and parking tickets which cases are heard by a County Court Judge or Hearing Officer.

## WHAT IS A CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CHARGE?

A criminal traffic charge is a violation of Florida Statutes which requires a court appearance. Some examples are:

- Driving While License Suspended;
- Driving Under the Influence;
- Reckless Driving.

Criminal charges carry penalties which may include fines and court costs, probation and/or the possibility of a jail term.

Payment of the ticket cannot be automatically made to the Clerk's Office. Persons charged with a criminal offense will receive a notice to appear indicating a court date, time and location.

## WHAT IS A CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION?

A civil traffic infraction is a non-criminal charge that can usually be disposed of by the payment of a civil penalty or an election to attend a defensive driving course. A court appearance is usually not required, except in cases where the violation involves an accident with serious bodily injury or fatality, and speeding violations in excess of 30 mph.

Payment can be made by mail or in person by coming to our full service counter at the Clerk of the Court's Office within the county in which the infraction occurred. You can also pay online at [www.myfloridacounty.com](http://www.myfloridacounty.com) for citations that do not require proof of compliance or an appearance in court within 30 days of the issuance date.

## HOW SOON AFTER ISSUANCE MUST I PAY THE TICKET?

Infraction violations must be paid within 30 calendar days from the date the ticket was issued.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TICKET IS NOT PAID TIMELY?

A suspension will be entered against your driver license and will subject you to additional penalties. You also may be turned over to a collection agency for any unpaid fines.

## ARE THERE OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ME OTHER THAN PAYING MY TICKET?

Yes, payable civil infractions may be satisfied by the following means:

- Entering a plea of Not Guilty and requesting a hearing before the court
- Electing to attend a driver improvement course, if provided for by law; or
- Submitting an Affidavit of Compliance for cases involving safety equipment violations.

Traffic tickets written for certain driver license, registration or insurance violations may be dismissed by the Clerk if valid proof of compliance can be shown for a fee of \$10.00.

## HOW DO I ENTER A NOT GUILTY PLEA TO A CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION?

You must notify the Clerk's Office in writing within the required time frame. Your case will be scheduled for a court date and you will be advised when and where to appear.

## WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING?

The officer who issued the traffic ticket and any other witnesses called by the officer. You may also bring any witnesses you wish to testify on your behalf.

## WHAT MUST I DO IF THE COURT FINDS ME GUILTY?

If you are found guilty of a civil infraction, the court may assess a fine and court costs, order you to attend a defensive driving course or impose other penalties. A suspension will be issued against your driver's license and additional penalties will be imposed if you fail to pay the fine and court costs within the time allotted you by the Court.

## HOW ARE PARKING TICKETS DIFFERENT FROM CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS?

Local parking tickets must be paid within 30 days from the date the ticket was issued. Local parking violations are ones which are not issued on a Uniform Traffic Citation. Additionally, unpaid parking violations may be turned over to a collection agency and cause your license to be suspended.

## CAN I PLEAD NOT GUILTY IF I LIVE OUT OF MARION COUNTY?

Yes. You may plead not guilty by completing an Affidavit of Defense and filing it with the Clerk's Office. The Affidavit will then be reviewed by the Court and you will be notified of the outcome by mail.

## WHAT ARE THE FINE AMOUNTS?

Fines for civil infractions vary and are governed by Florida Statutes. Contact our office so that we can determine the amount of your ticket.

## IF MY LICENSE IS UNDER SUSPENSION, HOW CAN I REINSTATE MY DRIVING PRIVILEGE?

You may pay the amount due plus the required delinquent fee if your license is suspended for failure to pay a civil infraction in Marion County. The Clerk's Office can assist you in reinstating your license. If there are other reasons for the suspension, you will need to go to a driver license office for reinstatement. A reinstatement fee is required.

## IF I RECEIVED A TRAFFIC TICKET IN ANOTHER COUNTY, CAN I TAKE CARE OF IT IN MARION COUNTY?

Tickets must be satisfied in the county in which they were issued.

## TO CONTACT THE MARION COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, TRAFFIC DIVISION, CALL OR WRITE TO:

Marion County Clerk's Office  
Traffic Division  
110 NW 1st Avenue  
Ocala, Florida 34475  
(352) 671-5599  
Fax (352) 671-5598