

FAQ
Traffic Infractions-Penalty Assessments

Q **Can I pay my ticket without going to court?**

A No. the law requires that the minor and the parent/legal guardian appear in court at the date, time and place shown on the ticket.

Q **What is a First Hearing or Appearance/What is a Final Hearing?**

A The first hearing is your first court date. You will be advised of your rights via video. You will be required to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty at the first hearing after you have been video advised. You will not see a Magistrate on your first hearing and the officer is not required to appear. A final hearing is a court trial to a Magistrate where the officer must prove to the Court that you are guilty of your offense beyond a reasonable doubt. You may also choose to testify and tell your side.

Q **Once I have appeared in court how long do I have to pay the fines and costs?**

A Per statute fines and costs are due the day of assessment. You can pay online with Master Card or Visa at <http://www.courts.state.co.us>. Failure to pay will result in a default judgment fee of \$30.00. Failure to pay on the date assessed will result in statutory fees of \$25.00 time fee (per year not paid), \$10.00 late fee and \$30.00 default judgment (against your driver's license). Once the default judgment is assessed you will be required to pay in cash or certified funds ONLY. Default judgment fees are not payable on line.

Q **Why do I have to pay my ticket the same day as court appearance?**

A There is a 60-90 day window from issuance to court appearance. Since all tickets indicate a fine and surcharges it is reasonable to assume you will owe money and the court expects you to be prepared.

Q **Do I have to pay court costs?**

A Yes. Court costs are determined by the Colorado legislature. When 20 days have passed from the date your ticket was issued the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will no longer accept your payment. DMV forwards all tickets to the proper court. Once filed with the court additional costs are automatically assessed per statute.

Q **What are VAST, BRAI, CRTI, GTSC and FAMF?**

A These are statutorily assessed court costs determined by the Colorado legislature. The funds are non-negotiable and assessed in all traffic cases. The fees include a mandated brain injury fund, genetic testing fund, family friendly court fund, and victim assistance.

Q **What are my options?**

A Appear in Court for the first hearing, view the video advisement, read the written advisement and set your case for a final hearing (trial to the court) or plead guilty and accept the proposed plea agreement on that date.

Q **How many points do I have on my license?**

A The court does not know, or keep track, of any individual driver licenses or the status of points. Age is a determining factor. Points are evaluated at ages 16, 18 and 21. Contact the state motor vehicle division with questions.

Q **Can I change my first hearing date?**

A One time ONLY. It may be re-scheduled for the **next nearest infraction docket**.

Q **Can I change a final hearing?**

A You may request a change in writing one time only. The Magistrate will make the determination. The court follows officer schedules so changes may be difficult or impossible.

Q **Can I hire an attorney?**

A Yes. You have the right to hire an attorney to represent you at your own expense. If you will be hiring an attorney at your first hearing the Court will set your case for final hearing. Court clerks are not attorneys therefore they are unable to give legal advice.