

Iris Y. Martinez
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cook County



**A Guide
To The**

Traffic Division

The Traffic Division for the First Municipal District handles traffic tickets within the city limits of Chicago. The Division is responsible for maintaining records and collecting fees and fines for all cases involving City of Chicago moving violations, conservation cases and 15 other local agencies. The Division DOES NOT HEAR matters relating to parking tickets or other non-moving violation tickets. The First District Traffic Division handles 750,000 cases on average annually. The Division hears cases in accordance with Illinois Supreme Court Rules and Illinois Compiled Statutes.

General Information regarding Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

- Persons charged with a DUI offense automatically receive a suspension of driving privileges in Illinois, known as a statutory summary suspension. In addition to the suspension imposed by the Secretary of State, such persons also face a fine, imprisonment or both if convicted.
- People charged with a DUI offense have the option of seeking Judicial Review wherein a petition can be filed before a judge to rescind the statutory summary suspension. In most cases this petition must be filed no later than 90 days after the date of issuance. It must be based on specific grounds as provided in the Illinois Compiled Statutes. It must be in writing and may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court before the first court date.

Criminal and Traffic Expungement Sealing Guidelines

- Under specific circumstances, Illinois law allows felony, misdemeanor or municipal ordinance violation records in Criminal and Traffic cases to be expunged or sealed. This law is designed to let people clear their records with or without an attorney.
- If you qualify, your records will either be expunged or sealed by law enforcement agencies and the Clerk's Office.
- "Expunged" records are destroyed. "Sealed" records are closed and restricted from public access, but are not destroyed. If you are not eligible for expungement of your records, you may be eligible for sealing of your records.

Court Diversion Program

Should you be charged with a traffic offense that is eligible for the Court Diversion Program, the officer will not assign you a court date but rather indicate on the face of the ticket that you must go online to www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org or mail-in your request. This program provides you with three (3) options:

Option A - Plead guilty, pay the fine and the conviction will be reported to the Secretary of State.

Option B - Plead guilty, register for Traffic Safety School, pay the fine and fee and a conviction will only be reported to the Secretary of State if you do not successfully complete Traffic Safety School. (Traffic Safety courses are available online)

Option C - Plead not guilty and request a court hearing. Your assigned court date and courtroom location will be e-mailed when choosing online or mailed to you.

For your convenience, if you do not have internet access, the form and the fine or fee may be mailed to the Clerk's Office in the envelope provided by the officer or you may use our convenient Drop-Off Box located in the Clerk's Office.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if I receive a Traffic Ticket?

The bottom right corner of your ticket will indicate whether or not a court appearance is required. A ticket marked "YOU MUST PAY ONLINE – www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org" is issued for a violation that does not require a court appearance and is punishable by a fine only. Follow the instructions on the back of the ticket.

If the ticket is marked "YOU MUST APPEAR," note the courtroom, date and time listed. You or your attorney must appear in court at this time. There are no automatic continuances, and court dates and times cannot be changed over the phone.

Can I call or email to obtain information regarding my ticket?

If you know the courthouse where the ticket was issued, please contact that courthouse. If you do not know which courthouse or have the ticket number and your ticket was issued in Chicago, you may email traffic1@cookcountycourt.com or call the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County at (312) 603-2000 and have a search conducted for a ticket number by giving your last name, first name and date of birth or driver's license number. Please have this information ready when you email or call. For information on your case if your ticket was issued in Chicago, please email traffic1@cookcountycourt.com or call (312) 603-2000.

Can I post a cash bond for my driver's license?

You can post a cash bond pursuant to Supreme Court rules prior to your court date. Please be aware of the following:

- The amount of the bond is set by Supreme Court Rule 526. Bonds can be posted only in cash or by credit card. It cannot be replaced with any other sureties.
- Checks and money orders are not accepted.
- Bond must be posted at the Clerk's Office where your ticket is pending.

EXCEPTION - You may not post cash bond and receive your driver's license if you are charged with any of the following offenses:

- Speeding 40 or more miles over the posted speed limit
- Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer
- Leaving the scene of an accident involving death or injury
- Driving under the influence (DUI)
- Drag racing
- Reckless driving
- Suspended driver's license

How can I pay my fine(s) and when will my driver's license be returned?

You may pay your fine with cash, credit card, check or money order. The driver's license will be returned to you immediately after your payment is processed if taken by the police officer or per a Judge's Order to release the license.

I missed my response date, what do I do?

If a person ignores the ticket or fails to appear in court, the judge may enter an ex parte judgment of conviction and assess a fine against that person in the amount set by Illinois Supreme Court Rules. If a person fails to pay the fine they will be subject to their case being turned over to Collections until the fine is paid. Ex parte judgments can be vacated by filing a motion via traffickmotions@cookcountycourt.com, in person or via attorney with the Clerk's Office and by paying a non-refundable motion to vacate ex parte fee.

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Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County
Traffic Division

Richard J. Daley Center
50 West Washington St., Room LL-01
Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 603-2941; (312) 603-2942;
(312) 603-2943; (312) 603-2945

Automated Voice Information: (312) 603-2000
traffic1@cookcountycourt.com

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Excluding Court Holidays



www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org  **CookCountyClerkofCourt**

This handout is not a substitute for professional legal advice.