

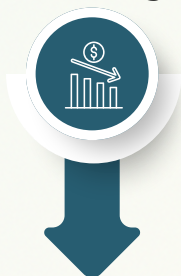


King County District Court

What to Expect at a Traffic Infraction Hearing

When you respond to a traffic ticket, there are two traffic infraction hearing types to choose from: a Mitigation Hearing and a Contested Hearing. When you come into court for either hearing type, you also may be able to request a Deferred Finding.

Mitigation Hearing



You admit you committed the infraction, but want to ask the judge to reduce the fine

- The judge will review the nature of your infraction and your history of infractions.
- You may explain the circumstances, if you wish.
- Often, the judge reduces the fine, and you can request a time payment plan.
- The infraction will likely appear on your driving record.

Contested Hearing



You believe you did not commit the infraction and would like to challenge ("contest") it

- There are two main ways you can proceed
 - You can request to reschedule your court date, and have the opportunity to subpoena the officer or hire an attorney.
 - Or, if you would like to contest the ticket today, the judge will give you a copy of the police report to read.
- During the hearing, the judge will review the police report; listen to your description of what happened, if you choose to speak ("testify"); and view any evidence you have to present.
- If the judge finds it is more likely than not that you committed the infraction, they will impose the full fine.

Deferred Finding



This may allow you to keep the infraction off your record and keep your insurance from going up

- You agree for the next year not to have any moving violations or criminal traffic violations.
- You will pay a \$150 monitoring fee to the Court.
- If you complete these requirements, the Court will dismiss the infraction and it will not appear on your driving record.
- If you violate any of the terms, the Court will find you committed the infraction, impose the full fine and report the violation to the DOL.
- You are eligible for a Deferred Finding every 7 years on a moving or non-moving violation.
- Commercial driver's licenses are not eligible for a Deferred Finding.

Disclaimer

The information on this sheet is for general reference. For more information, scan QR code to visit the King County District Court website. You also can consult an attorney.

