

King County

Civil Fines and Penalties for Civil Code Violations

Civil fines for violations of the King County Code are designed to be remedial, meaning they help encourage compliance rather than simply punish. The fines vary based on the type and frequency of violations, as outlined below.

Citations (Excluding Wineries, Breweries, Distilleries, and Remote Tasting Rooms)

- **No previous similar violation:** \$100
- **No previous K.C.C. chapter 12.86 violation in the past year:** \$125
- **One previous violation of chapter 12.86 in the past year:** \$250
- **One or more previous similar violations or two violations of chapter 12.86 in the past year:** \$500
- **Multiple prior violations within 12 months:** Penalty doubles from the previous amount

Citations for Winery, Brewery, Distillery & Remote Tasting Room Violations

- **No prior similar violation within 12 months:** \$500
- **One or more prior violations in 12 months:** \$1,000

Violation of a Notice & Order or Stop Work Order per day penalties

- **Stop Work Order** basic penalty: \$500
- **Voluntary compliance & Notice and Order** basic penalty: \$25
- **Additional penalties** for risk factors or prior offenses include: public health risk \$15, environmental damage risk \$15, damage to property risk \$15, one previous similar violation \$25, two previous similar violations \$50, three previous similar violations \$75, and economic benefit to person responsible for the violation \$25.

Reinspection Fees

- Reinspection following issuance of a notice & order, if the violation has not been corrected.
- **Reinspection fees** increase with subsequent inspections for unresolved violations, ranging from \$150 for the first reinspection \$300 for second reinspection, and \$450 for a third reinspection and each additional reinspection.

This structured approach to fines ensures penalties fit the severity and recurrence of violations, promoting responsible behavior while giving violators a clear roadmap toward compliance.