

Traffic Infraction Deferral Program

The Court is providing the following information on its Traffic Infraction Deferral Program, which may allow you to have your traffic ticket dismissed and not go on your driving record. Here's how the Traffic Infraction Deferral Program works:

1. **One Moving and One Non-Moving Traffic Violation Only.** Every seven (7) years you may defer one moving violation (such as speeding, failure to yield and negligent driving in the second degree, etc.) and one non-moving violation (such as driving without a valid driver's license, driving without proof of insurance, exceeding weight or height limits, etc).
2. **No Commercial Driver's License Holders.** If you have a commercial driver's license, you are not eligible for this program.
3. **No Deferrals for Seven (7) years.** You must not have the same type of violation (moving or non-moving) deferred in Washington during the last seven (7) years.
4. **Have No Violations for One (1) Year.** Once on the program, you must not have any of the following violations for one (1) year: any new traffic infraction. A traffic infraction includes any deferred finding, stipulated continuance, fine forfeiture, failure to respond, or similar arrangements.
5. **Pay Court Costs.** You must pay a non-refundable court cost in the face amount of your citation, plus a \$25 administrative fee. You may request a payment plan or perform community service in lieu of payment. If you fail to pay the court costs or perform community service, a finding of committed will be entered.
6. **If You Cannot Afford to Pay.** You may attest that you do not have the current ability to pay the infraction in full. You may request smaller monthly payments, and/or to perform community service hours which will be credited at a minimum wage. Contact a member of court staff for more information. You may submit evidence of inability to pay by completing a Financial Statement [see form attached here].
7. **Court May Deny Application.** The Judge may deny an application, or may impose other conditions.
8. **What Happens After One Year?** If you comply with all requirements of the program, the ticket for the violation will be dismissed after one (1) year and won't go on your driving record. If you violate any requirement, the ticket will not be dismissed, and it will go on your record as violation. Also, if the court later discovers that you do not qualify for this program, the ticket will go on your record as a violation.

To participate in the Traffic Infraction Deferral Program, please complete the Petition. If you have requested a hearing, by applying for this program you give up your right to a hearing. If the Court receives your application and payment by the hearing date, you won't need to attend the hearing. You may assume that your application is approved unless the Court tells you otherwise. If you don't want to participate in the program, or if you don't qualify, you should attend your hearing as scheduled.

The petition may be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Wahkiakum County District Court
PO Box 144
Cathlamet, WA 98612
Fax: 360-795-6506
districtcourt@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

If you have any questions, please call Wahkiakum District Court Office at 360-795-3461.