



## THURSTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Judge Kalo Wilcox  
Department 1

Judge Samuel G. Meyer  
Department 2

Judge M. Brett Buckley  
Department 3

### DEFERRING YOUR TRAFFIC INFRACTION Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Can I keep my traffic ticket off my record?**

A: If you have received a traffic infraction, you may be eligible for a deferral. By successfully completing a deferral, the Court will not report your ticket to the Department of Licensing (DOL). You may defer only one traffic infraction each seven years. The length of deferral is one year. To complete your deferral you must pay an administrative fee and have no new violations for one year. If you commit a **new traffic infraction at any location during your deferral or fail to pay the administrative fee**, the Court will report your deferred ticket as a conviction to DOL. Four infractions listed below **do not qualify for this Court's deferral program**. Additionally, the infraction of Operating a Motor Vehicle without Liability Insurance may be deferred only if you show proof that you are now insured at the time you request a deferral.

**Q: How do I ask the Court to defer my infraction?**

A: It is preferred that you appear in person at the main clerk's window to request the deferral; however, if this is not possible, you may mail in your request.

**Q: When must I appear to request a deferral?**

A: Please request the deferral **at least 5 working days before any scheduled hearing** on your traffic infraction. By requesting a deferral before your scheduled hearing, the Court can cancel witnesses who may be subpoenaed for your hearing. The Court will not consider deferral requests on the day of a scheduled traffic infraction hearing if witnesses have been subpoenaed for and appear at your hearing.

**Q: What does it cost to defer my infraction?**

A: Within 90 days from the Court granting you entry into a deferral program, you must pay a \$150 administrative fee for one charge and an additional \$70 fee for each additional charge.

**Q: What if I fail to pay the administrative fee for my deferral within the required 90-day period?**

A: The Court will revoke your deferral and will report to DOL that you committed your traffic violation. In addition, a \$52.00 penalty will be assessed against you, a Failure to Appear (FTA) ordered, and notification sent to DOL to begin processing your driver's license for suspension. **There are no exceptions to this policy!**

**Q: What if I commit a new traffic infraction?**

A: The Court will revoke your deferral and will report to DOL that you committed your traffic infraction. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

**Q: What infractions do not qualify for deferral?**

A: The Court does not allow deferral for these four infractions:  
• Speeding in a Construction Zone • Any Infraction where a Fatality Occurred • Passing a School Bus  
• Approaching Emergency Zones/Fail to Yield -Stationary Emergency Vehicle

**Q: If I have a commercial driver's license, can I request that my traffic infraction be deferred?**

A: No. A person who is a holder of a commercial driver's license or who was operating a commercial vehicle at the time of the violation may not receive a deferral.

**Q: What if I have more questions?**

A: If you have computer access, please visit our website at: [www.co.thurston.wa.us](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us)