



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

INFRACTION TRIALS – NOTICE TO LITIGANTS

YOU ARE SCHEDULED FOR TRIAL- WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

HOW LONG WILL MY TRIAL TAKE?

- Although most trials proceed quickly, there are usually many trials on calendar. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early and to spend 2 to 4 hours in court.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR MY WITNESS(ES) TO TESTIFY?

- If you have witnesses necessary for your defense, ask them to appear on your trial date.
- If your witnesses will not voluntarily appear, you may obtain subpoena forms at any courthouse handling traffic matters or at the court's website at lacourt.org under Forms, Filings & Files - State Judicial Council Approved Forms." These forms should be processed well in advance of your trial date.

WHEN DO I PRESENT MY EVIDENCE?

- You may present evidence such as photos, diagrams, reports, or any other exhibits at your trial.

WILL THE OFFICER WHO WROTE THE CITATION BE IN COURT?

- The officer will be notified of the trial date.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM LATE OR DO NOT APPEAR FOR TRIAL?

- The court may forfeit your bail, close the case, and a conviction may appear on your driving record.
- If you did not post bail, the court may refer your case to collections and add a civil assessment of up to \$100 pursuant to Penal Code section 1214.1, or
- The court may proceed to trial without your appearance, pursuant to Vehicle Code section 40903(a).

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE OFFICER DOES NOT APPEAR FOR TRIAL?

- If the officer does not appear and you do, the violation may be dismissed. All rulings are at the discretion of the judicial officer.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET TO COURT?

- The bailiff/clerk will check you in and give some preliminary instructions.
- The judicial officer will listen to statements from both sides. You may present your case by questioning your witnesses and presenting your evidence.
- The judicial officer will make a ruling.
- Pursuant to Government Code section 72190 and California Rules of Court, rules 2.810-2.816, the judicial officer hearing your trial has the authority to rule on infraction matters.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM FOUND GUILTY?

- If you are found guilty, a sentence and a fine will be imposed and a conviction may appear on your driving record.
- If you posted bail, your original bail amount will be applied to your fine. If you were released on your own recognizance and did not post bail, you will be given a due date to pay the fine.
- If you are found guilty and your fine is suspended, you will still owe state mandated fees. If you have posted bail, you will receive a partial refund, if not, you will be given a due date to pay the fees.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM FOUND NOT GUILTY?

- If you posted bail, it will be refunded within 4 weeks, and the case will not be reported on your driving record. **It is your responsibility to ensure that your current address is on file with the court.**

HOW DO I CHANGE MY TRIAL DATE?

- You may change your trial date **ONLY** once, in person or by mail.
- The request must be received at least 10 business days prior to the trial date, **no exceptions**. Court business days excludes holidays, weekends, and the trial date.