



PRO SE / SELF-REPRESENTED GUIDE

Traffic Ticket Appeal Exhibit Guide

Contesting a traffic ticket? Organize your evidence to challenge the citation and protect your driving record.

You have the right to contest traffic tickets, and many violations can be successfully challenged with proper evidence. Whether disputing the facts, the signage, or the officer's observations, organized documentation can make your case. This guide helps you gather evidence for your traffic court hearing.

Citation Documents

- Traffic citation**
The ticket you received with all details
- Envelope with postmark**
If mailed, proof of when you received it
- Your written not guilty plea**
Copy of the form you filed to contest

Scene Evidence

- Photos of the location**
The intersection, street, signs, road conditions
- Photos of traffic signs**
Signs that were missing, obscured, or confusing
- Photos of road markings**
Lane markings, stop lines, crosswalks
- Photos of sight lines**
Views showing what you could or could not see

Diagrams & Maps

- Hand-drawn diagram of incident**
Shows positions of vehicles, signs, and officer
- Google Maps or satellite image**
Aerial view of the location
- Speed limit map**
Showing posted limits in the area

This guide is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For legal advice specific to your situation, consult with a licensed attorney. You are responsible for ensuring compliance with your local court's rules and procedures.

Technical Evidence

- Vehicle maintenance records**
For equipment violations, proof of repairs
- Calibration records request**
Ask for radar/lidar calibration records
- Traffic light timing records**
For red light violations, timing documentation
- Dashcam footage**
Video from your vehicle if available

Witness & Character Evidence

- Passenger statements**
Written statements from anyone in your car
- Other witness statements**
From pedestrians or other drivers
- Driving record**
Your DMV record showing clean history (if applicable)

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. Missing the deadline to request a hearing
2. Not gathering evidence right away while it is fresh
3. Going to court without photos of the location
4. Admitting guilt when paying for traffic school
5. Not requesting radar calibration records in speed cases

ORGANIZATION TIPS

- Return to the scene to take photos at the same time of day
- Note weather, visibility, and road conditions at time of ticket
- Take photos from the officer's stated position
- Request discovery - the prosecution must share evidence with you
- Write down everything you remember immediately after the stop

COURTROOM PREPARATION

- Arrive early and observe other cases to understand procedure
- Dress professionally and be respectful to everyone
- Have your exhibits organized and ready to present
- Prepare questions for the officer (they must testify)
- Know the exact law you're accused of violating
- Consider requesting a trial by declaration (written statement) if available

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