

# ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

## **WHAT IS THE FINE FOR A CELL PHONE VIOLATION?**

A court appearance is required for cell phone violations. The fine for a first offense is between \$200-\$400, a second offense is \$400-\$600, a third offense is \$600-\$800.

## **DO I GET POINTS ON MY LICENSE?**

Points are not assessed by the court. The Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) assesses points. A record of a guilty plea or finding of guilt on a traffic summons is sent to the MVC. The MVC will assess points based on the offense. Information about points can be found on the judiciary's website, [www.njmcdirect.com](http://www.njmcdirect.com), click on the link for "NJ Point System".

## **IS A COURT APPEARANCE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE MY SUMMONS?**

If your offense is listed on the Statewide Violations Bureau schedule and the officer did NOT check the "Court Appearance Required" box, you may pay the fine without an appearance if you are pleading guilty.

Offenses that DO require a court appearance are:

<b><u>Statute</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
39:3-10	Driving without a license
39:3-13.8 (A-F)	Provisional license/permit holder violations
39:3-29	Failure to exhibit an <u>insurance card</u>
39:3-40	Driving while suspended/suspended registration
39:4-66.2	Avoiding traffic control signal/sign
39:4-77.1	Failure to remove snow from vehicle
39:4-96	Reckless driving
39:4-97.3	Using hand held device while driving
39:4-98	Speeding (40 mph or more over limit)
39:4-129	Leaving the scene of an accident
39:4-130	Failure to report accident
39:6B-2	No Insurance on vehicle
39:8-9C	Fraudulent display of inspection sticker

## **WHEN IS THE PAYMENT DUE?**

If you wish to plead guilty to a payable offense, payment is due by the court date listed on the front, lower portion of the summons. Payments can be made at the court office (Mon- Fri, 9 am-4 pm), by mail or via the internet, [www.njmcdirect.com](http://www.njmcdirect.com)

## **WHERE DO I SEND MY PAYMENT?**

Tenafly Municipal Court, 100 Riveredge Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670

Makes checks payable to: Tenafly Municipal Court

**DO I NEED TO SEND MY TICKET WITH THE PAYMENT?**

No. Just write your ticket number in the memo section of the check.

**WHAT IF I WISH TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY?**

If you wish to plead not guilty, you must notify this court at least 7 days prior to the date listed on the front of the summons. You will be advised of the date and time you need to appear. If you fail to notify the court of your not guilty plea, you may have to make additional appearances to resolve this matter.

**WHAT OCCURS IN COURT?**

The judge will read an opening statement explaining court procedures. The judge then reads the names on the court calendar. At that time, the defendants will state whether they are pleading guilty or not guilty to the offense charged.

All defendants pleading not guilty will then be given the opportunity to speak with the municipal prosecutor to settle their case. The prosecutor can make an offer to downgrade the offense you are charged with in exchange for a guilty plea (plea bargaining). He can request that the judge dismiss your ticket (court costs may be ordered), or will bring your case to trial.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M FOUND GUILTY?**

The judge will assess the fines. You will be required to pay all monetary penalties ordered. Payment is due in full the day of court. Depending on the offense charged, you could be ordered to perform community service, or your driving privileges could be suspended as part of your sentence for the more serious offenses.

**WHAT FORM OF PAYMENT IS ACCEPTED?**

The Tenafly Municipal Court accepts cash or checks as well as MasterCard, Visa and Discover.

**CAN I POSTPONE MY CASE?**

Only one adjournment will be granted by the violations bureau. ***NO ADJOURNMENTS WILL BE GRANTED THE DAY OF COURT!***