

Parking Tickets and Traffic Violations City of Evanston and City of Chicago

by Arthur Corbin (updated Spring/2016)

This document is for general information only. The laws, fines, and procedures may change without notice.

You are encouraged to [schedule an appointment with the TGS Legal Services Office](#) to consult with the attorney — particularly if you were cited for a traffic violation that requires a court appearance.

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Parking Tickets — Overview

Parking tickets are civil violations. Civil violations are punishable by fine only. This means that you will not be arrested and taken to jail for getting a parking ticket. This also means you don't have to appear in court for getting or failing to pay a parking ticket.

Think of the parking ticket as a non-consensual financial obligation that you have to pay (like a credit card or cellphone bill) or face late fees and collection actions.

Prompt payment of a parking ticket is to your advantage because the fine will double quickly and collection actions may include the "booting" of your vehicle, the impoundment of your vehicle, and the suspension of your driving privileges.

Although going to court is not required you have a right to due process. You can therefore challenge the parking ticket by timely requesting an administrative hearing in the jurisdiction that issued the citation.

Parking Tickets — City of Evanston

Evanston’s Parking Ticket General Enforcement Timeline

Event	Consequence
i. Parking ticket issued:	10 days to pay or contest the ticket to avoid a late fee.
ii. Payment not made or hearing not requested:	Notice with payment and administrative hearing information mailed to registered owner of vehicle.
iii. Payment not made or hearing not requested:	You are found liable by default. The ticket becomes final. 35 days to appeal final determination in the Circuit Court of Cook County (Skokie) or to pay ticket.
iv. Payment not made or appeal not timely filed:	Potential referral to outside agency for collection. Past due obligation may be reported to credit reporting agency. Possible adverse tradeline on credit report.
v. 5 or more unpaid final parking tickets:	Vehicle can be “booted” and impounded. Boot fee (\$125), tow fee (\$145), and storage fees will be assessed.

Evanston’s Common Parking Violations and Fines

Common Parking Violation	Fine
Expired Meter:	\$10.00
No Parking for Street Cleaning:	\$35.00
Parking Longer Than Maximum Time Allowed:	\$40.00

Helpful Links for Evanston:

[Pay Evanston Parking Ticket](#)

[Contest Evanston Parking Ticket](#)

[Booted Vehicle in Evanston](#)

[Towed Vehicle in Evanston](#)

Parking Tickets — City of Chicago

Chicago’s Parking Ticket General Enforcement Timeline

Event	Consequence
i. Parking ticket issued:	7 days to pay or contest the ticket. If ticket not paid or contested the fine doubles.
ii. Payment not made or hearing not requested:	Notice with payment and hearing information mailed to registered owner of vehicle. 14 days to request a hearing.
iii. Payment not made or hearing not requested:	You are found liable by default. Notice of the final determination is mailed. 21 days to contest the finding of default.
iv. Hearing requested but found liable:	25 days to pay fine. 35 days to file an appeal in the Circuit Court of Cook County.
v. Payment not made or appeal not filed:	Potential referral to outside agency for collections. Possible adverse tradeline on credit report.
vi. 3 or more unpaid tickets in final determination status:	Vehicle can be “booted” and impounded 24 hours after being booted. Boot fee (\$100). Tow fee (\$150). Storage fees (\$20/day for first 5 days; \$35/day after 5th day).
vii. 2 or more unpaid tickets in final determination status for more than 1 year:	Vehicle can be “booted” and impounded 24 hours after being booted. Boot fee (\$100). Tow fee (\$150). Storage fees (\$20/day for first 5 days; \$35/day after 5th day).
viii. Vehicle towed to City Auto Pound :	Vehicles not recovered within 21 days become eligible for auction or destruction (depends on value of vehicle).

Common Parking Violations and Fines — City of Chicago

Common Violations	Fines
Expired Meter	\$50.00 - \$65.00
No Parking for Street Cleaning	\$50.00
Residential Parking Permit	\$75.00

Helpful Links — City of Chicago

[Pay Chicago Parking Ticket](#)

[Contest Chicago Parking Ticket](#)

[Booted Vehicle in Chicago](#)

[Towed Vehicle in Chicago](#)

[Payment Plan Options](#)

[Locate Towed Vehicle in Chicago](#)

Traffic Violations — Overview

Speeding tickets and other moving violations are criminal offenses. The severity of the offense can range from a petty offense to a misdemeanor. A court appearance may also be required. If a court appearance is required, the law enforcement officer will write the location, date, and time of the court hearing on the ticket.

Traffic laws can be creatures of state law, municipal ordinance, or both. The law enforcement officer has the discretion to choose the legal scheme under which to charge you.

Regardless of the legal scheme you are charged under, one thing is certain: the jurisdiction that issues the citation (e.g. Evanston: Evanston Police; Chicago: Chicago Police; suburb: suburban police; express way: Illinois State Police; etc.) will also be the forum for any court proceedings (if required).

This means that if a court appearance is required, the court will be located inside or near the jurisdiction that issued the citation.

Example 1: You were stopped while driving in Carbondale — a small college town in Southern Illinois — for aggravated speeding (speeding between 26 and 34 mph) which requires a court appearance. You will have to appear in a court that serves and is located in or near Carbondale in Southern Illinois.

Example 2: You were driving to Rockford on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) on your way to the Rock River Rib Fest. You were stopped by an Illinois state trooper in McHenry County. The trooper cited you for speeding in a construction zone which requires a court appearance. You will have to appear in a court that is located in and serves McHenry County.

It is a good idea to be extra careful when traveling long distances on the road because appearing in a court located far away from home may be very inconvenient and expensive.

HINT: Pay special attention for construction zones in unfamiliar areas.

Common Traffic Violations

NOTE: Mandatory court costs will be assessed and must be paid in addition to the traffic fine. Court costs in the Circuit Court of Cook County are currently \$214.00.

Speeding Violations	
<p>Regular Speeding (state law) — up to 25 mph over the speed limit:</p>	<p>Petty Offense.</p> <p>Fine of not more than \$500.00 (between \$100 and \$140, depending on customs and procedures of jurisdiction).</p> <p>A court appearance is required.</p>
<p>Excessive Speeding (state law) — between 26 and 34 mph over speed limit:</p>	<p>Class B Misdemeanor.</p> <p>Fine up to \$1,500.00 and up to 6 months in jail (judge has discretion, fine amount depends on factual circumstances and customs and procedures of jurisdiction).</p> <p>A court appearance is required. The court may also require you to retain an attorney due to the possibility of jail time.</p>
<p>Aggravated Speeding (state law) — 35 + mph over speed limit:</p>	<p>Class A Misdemeanor.</p> <p>Fine up to \$2,000.00 and up to 12 months in jail (judge has discretion, fine amount depends on factual circumstances and customs and procedures of jurisdiction).</p> <p>A court appearance is required. The court may also require you to retain an attorney due to possibility of jail time.</p>

Speeding in a Construction Zone or Maintenance Zone (state law):	Severity	Penalty
	First Offense: Petty Offense A court appearance is required.	\$250.00 minimum fine + \$125.00 safety charge = \$375.00.
	Second Offense: Petty Offense A court appearance is required.	\$750.00 minimum fine + \$255.00 safety charge = \$1,000.00.
	Driver's License Suspended for 90 Days: If the second violation within 2 years of the previous violation, and the second violation and one prior violation occurred when workers were present in the construction zone or the maintenance zone.	
Speeding (Chicago ordinance):	Severity	Fine
	First Offense	Not less than \$200.00 and not more than \$300.00. May also be subject to community service.
	Second Offense	Not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$500.00. May also be subject to community service.
	Third and Each Subsequent Offense within a 3-year Period	Not less than \$500.00 and not more than \$1,000.00. May also be subject to community service.

Driving Without a Valid Driver's License	
Driving Without a Valid Driver's License (state law):	<p>Petty Offense up to Class A Misdemeanor. (severity of offense depends on reason for not have a valid license)</p> <p>Fine up to \$2,000.00 and up to 12 months in jail.</p> <p>A court appearance is required. The court may also require you to retain an attorney.</p>

Driving Uninsured Vehicle or Without Proof of Insurance	
Driving Uninsured Vehicle:	<p>\$100.00 fine and supervision if you produce evidence that vehicle is insured as of the date of the court appearance.</p> <p>A court appearance is required.</p>
Driving Without Proof of Insurance:	<p>Same as driving an uninsured vehicle (see above).</p>

Other Common Moving Violations	
Failure to Obey Traffic Signal (Chicago ordinance):	<p>Petty offense with a fine of not less than \$90.00 and not more than \$300.00. In practice, the fine for the first offense is \$100.00 plus mandatory court costs of \$214.00, for a total of \$314.00.</p>

Common Traffic Violations for Which a Court Appearance Is Required
All Misdemeanor Violations
Operating Without Insurance
No Valid Driver's License
Any Traffic Offense With a Minimum Fine Greater Than \$95.00

Court Locations: Cook & Surrounding Counties

Court Facilities for Jurisdictions in Cook County	
FIRST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	SECOND MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
Richard J. Daley Center 50 West Washington Street Chicago, IL 60602	Second Municipal District Courthouse 5600 Old Orchard Road Skokie, IL 60077
Serves the City of Chicago	Serves Suburban Cities and Villages:
The First Municipal District is divided into multiple branches located throughout the Chicago. Proceedings for felony and misdemeanor traffic violations may take place in one of these branch courts.	Deerfield, Des Plaines, Evanston , Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Northfield, Park Ridge, Skokie, Wilmette, Winnetka, Cook County Sheriff, Cook County Forest Preserve, Illinois State Police Districts 03 and 15, and Union Pacific Railroad.
Court Facilities for Jurisdictions Located in the Counties Surrounding Cook County (the “Collar Counties”)	
DuPage County	Will County
Lake County	McHenry County
Kane County	