

**RICHARD M. WEISS, CLERK OF COURTS POLK COUNTY TRAFFIC INFORMATION as of 04/1/2010**

Failure to pay the ticket (Option # 1), deny the charge (Option 2), or elect to attend a defensive driving school (Option 3) **within 30 calendar days WILL** result in suspension of your driver's license and assessment of delinquent fees. (Refer to your traffic citation for complete details.) Or, you may contact the Clerk to request a one time 60-day payment continuance. By requesting a payment continuance, this action waives your option to deny (plead not guilty to) the charge. You would still be eligible for the defensive driving school if you qualify. Please contact your nearest Clerk of Court's office for assistance. Offices are located in Bartow, Lakeland, and Winter Haven for your convenience.

Please refer to the Customer Hotline/Messages below before a final decision is made. Using a touch-tone phone, dial **(863)** and the number below. Please understand these lines are recordings only. **To speak to an Attendant, you must press 0.**

534-7710	Operating Hours and Locations	534-7711	Types of Traffic Tickets & Payment Schedules
534-7712	Request for an Arraignment Hearing	543-7713	Entering a Not Guilty Plea
534-7714	Credit Card Internet Payment & Toll-Free Payment Options *	534-7715	Defensive Driving School
534-7716	Extension of Time to Pay your Ticket	534-7717	Driving Directions to Courthouse
534-7718	Public Record Requests	To speak to an Attendant, you must press 0.	

-----NOTICE-----NOTICE-----NOTICE-----

**\*Our credit card service provider is available for residents of the US only.** You may contact your nearest Western Union office for remittance and Use the Western Union Quick Collect® OR the Western Union Quick Pay® service to send payments. By taking advantage of the "Quick" services, your payment will come straight to us in the form of a check in U.S. dollars. To take advantage of the Western Union Quick Collect® or Quick Pay® services, you must provide the following information: Pay to: Polk County Criminal- FL Code City: CLERKCRIMPOLK Code State: FL  
Account Number: Citation number and your last name

**For those customers outside the United States and wanting to send payment via Western Union, go to [www.paymentsolutions.com](http://www.paymentsolutions.com) to locate a Western Union store near you and then go to the store to send payment via quick collect. Otherwise, remit funds via an International Money Order in US Dollars.**

-----NOTICE-----NOTICE-----NOTICE-----

The Clerk is lawfully authorized to seek outside collection efforts for unpaid obligations. The law imposes a 40% fee to be added onto the total amount of the unpaid financial obligations which remain unpaid 90 days or greater from the payment due date. To prevent suspension of your driving privilege and additional delinquent fees: **DO NOT FAIL TO PAY THE TICKET, DENY THE CHARGES, OR ELECT TO ATTEND A DRIVING SCHOOL WITHIN 30 CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE OF OFFENSE.** TO AVOID OUTSIDE COLLECTION EFFORTS, SUSPENSION FEES & AN ADDITIONAL 40% SERVICE FEE PAY THE VIOLATION AS DIRECTED.

----- REFER TO OTHER SIDE FOR FURTHER DETAILS -----

**RICHARD M. WEISS, CLERK OF COURTS – IMPORTANT TRAFFIC CITATION INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

You have three options available to dispose of your traffic citation: 1. Pay the ticket 2. Contest the ticket in Court, or 3. Attend Driver Improvement School

**OPTION ONE – Pay the Ticket  
SPEEDING VIOLATIONS**

Miles over	Penalty	School Election
1 to 5	Warning	
6 to 9	\$ 129.00	\$ 136.00
10 to 14	\$ 204.00	\$ 211.00
15 to 19	\$ 254.00	\$ 261.00
20 to 29	\$ 279.00	\$ 286.00
30 & over	Court required	Not eligible
Speeding in school zone or posted construction zone – penalty may be doubled as follows:		
6 to 9	\$ 154.00	\$ 161.00
10 to 14	\$ 304.00	\$ 311.00
15 to 19	\$ 404.00	\$ 411.00
20 to 29	\$ 454.00	\$ 461.00
30 & over	Court required	Not eligible

**OTHER TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS**

Violation	Penalty	School Election
Bicyclist < 14 yrs /Pedestrian	\$62.50	
Non-moving	\$ 114.00	
Moving	\$ 164.00	\$ 171.00
Child Restraint	\$ 164.00	Not eligible
Fail to obey traffic devices(red light)	\$ 229.00	\$236.00
Toll Violations	\$ 204.00 + tolls	\$ 211.00 + tolls
Unknowing DWSR	\$ 163.00	\$99.15 as Civil Option /POC
Failure to Stop for School Bus	\$269.00	\$ 276.00

You may pay by credit card 10-13 business days following the date of the offense if you reside inside the United States by calling 1- 877-716-1781 or online at [www.PolkCountyClerk.net](http://www.PolkCountyClerk.net). You may also mail your payment in US dollars to:

Richard M. Weiss, Clerk of Courts  
PO Box 9000 Drawer CC-10

Bartow, FL 33831-9000 or to the address listed on the payment envelope provided by the officer. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH. THE CITATION NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON ALL PAYMENTS.**

If you are charged with license, tag, or insurance violations, please read the back of the citation. You must furnish proof of same if valid at the time of offense with a \$10.00 dismissal fee payable to the Clerk within 30 days.

If you are charged with improper equipment under F.S. 316.610, please provide proof of compliance (if corrected and signed off by law enforcement) within 30 days along with a \$96.00 reduced penalty fee payable to the Clerk.

**The above two types of citations are NOT payable via our on-line payment services.**

**OPTION TWO – Contest the Ticket**

To deny the charges, you must contact the Clerk of Court and request a formal hearing within 30 calendar days. **Please wait at least 10 business days from the offense date before contacting the Clerk.** You will be required to appear at an arraignment hearing before a Traffic Hearing Officer or County Judge and enter a Guilty, No Contest, or Not Guilty plea.

**NOTICE: IF YOU ARE ASKING FOR ADJUDICATION TO BE WITHHELD (no points assessed to your driving record) YOU MUST CALL AND REQUEST AN ARRAIGNMENT HEARING - DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM.**

If you enter a Not Guilty Plea at arraignment, you will be required to reappear for a non-jury trial date at a later date.

**Instead of appearing in court for arraignment, you may sign the form below and return it to our office.**

**By signing the form, you are stating:**

I am pleading Not Guilty to this offense.

I am waiving my right to have adjudication withheld and waiving my option to attend a Defensive Driving School.

I am waiving my personal appearance at the initial arraignment hearing and I understand I will be notified of a non-jury trial date.

I will be responsible for all costs associated with this citation including witnesses subpoena fees if I am found guilty of this offense.

I will be responsible at my own expense to record my non jury trial with a hand held recorder or hire a court reporter to record the trial if I desire to do so.

I understand that failing to appear for the non-jury trial as notified by the Clerk will result in suspension of my driving privileges, additional fees, and points being assessed on my record.

Ticket # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: *It is your responsibility to make sure that this affidavit is in the court file within 30 calendar days from the offense date. Please cut along side and return to the Clerk's Office along with a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope only if you are pleading not guilty and requesting a NON-JURY TRIAL date.*

**You must keep a copy for your records.**

**OPTION THREE – Driver Improvement School**

**I understand this option is available to me ONLY if:**

I have not made an election for Driving School within the last twelve months.

I have not made five elections in the last 10 years.

I am making this election within 30 calendar days of the date this citation was issued or before the payment date.

I have not been charged with a driver license, registration, or insurance violation.

I DO NOT HOLD A COMMERCIAL LICENSE.

I was not traveling 30 miles or over the speed limit.

**I understand to satisfactorily complete this election I must:**

Mail or bring this election form and PAY applicable costs (See School Election amount listed in Option 1) to the Clerk of Court within 30 calendar days of the date this citation was issued.

Attend and complete an approved Basic Driver Improvement course in the State of Florida and present proof of completion to the Clerk of Court within 90 days of the date this election is received by the Clerk.

**I understand that if I satisfactorily complete this election:**

My driver record will not reflect a conviction.

Points will not be assessed against my driver's license.

**I understand that if I fail to complete any requirement of this election:**

I will be guilty of the offense and my driver record will be changed to show a conviction of this offense.

Points will be assessed against my driver license.

Additional fines, costs, and fees will be due.

**NOTICE: DO NOT SIGN THIS ELECTION UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND ALL CONDITIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE BASIC DRIVING IMPROVEMENT COURSE ELECTION My signature indicates my intent to elect to attend a driver improvement course. By signing this form I understand that I must complete the class. If I do not, I will owe additional fees, and points will be assessed on my record.**

Ticket # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: *It is your responsibility to make sure that this form is in the court file within 30 calendar days from the offense date or your payment due date. Please refer to your local yellow pages under Driving Instruction for a course provider nearest you.*

**You must retain a copy for your records.**