

PLEASE READ BEFORE CALLING THE CLERK'S OFFICE

FAQs for Bland County General District Court

<https://selfhelp.vacourts.gov>

Our mailing address is: Bland General District Court PO Box 157, Bland, VA 24315

Our physical address is: Bland General District Court 612 Main Street, Ste 106, Bland, VA 24315

Our Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Phone Number: (276) 688-4433 Fax Number: (276) 688-4789

I just got a ticket. How much is it?

The officer should have given you a Virginia prepayable offenses information sheet. Please take the time to read this sheet. It explains everything to you. If you pay online, the system will calculate what you owe. Please note that you must add the fine(s) and fees together to obtain the total prepay amount. Please also note that not all violations are prepayable.

How much will my reckless driving ticket be? What is the minimum/maximum?

Reckless driving tickets are not prepayable. The judge will determine the amount of your fine and any additional penalties on the trial date. The clerk's office cannot give you legal advice. Please visit the self-help site listed at the top of this page.

My ticket is not pre-payable. How will I know how much to pay?

The judge will determine the amount of your fine and any additional penalties on the trial date.

Do I have to wait until the court date to find out how much my reckless driving ticket will be?

Yes. The judge will set the fine and any penalties on the trial date.

Can I pay over the phone?

The clerk's office prefers that you pay online or by mail. The online payment system will allow you to print a receipt, and it will email a receipt to you. If you pay by mail and want a receipt, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. If we process phone payments, we do not provide receipts.

I cannot find my case when I search online. Why?

It takes approximately ten business days for your summons to be turned into the clerk's office and keyed into the court case management system. Once it is keyed into the case management system, your information will appear online.

What paperwork do I send back with my payment?

You will need to send your payment (check, money order, credit card authorization) and the Virginia Uniform Summons. If you pay online, you do not need to mail anything in.

What is the court website? What info do I need to pay online?

The court website is www.vacourts.gov. The only information you need is the county where you got the ticket (Bland) and your name. From the home page, in the upper right-hand corner, click on payment options. You will click on PAY TRAFFIC TICKETS AND ORTHER CASES IN A GENERAL DISTRICT COURT. The next page will take you to the Terms and conditions of use. The next page will take you to the drop-down box with the names of the courts. You can also refer to the section HOW TO PAY TRAFFIC TICKETS AND OTHER OFFENES. **Please read the instructions.** The clerk's office cannot walk you through the online payment process. If you need additional help, from the home page, scroll to the bottom and click on the Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help or go directly to the self-help website <https://selfhelp.vacourts.gov>

When I go online to pay, which court do I choose? Circuit or General District?

You will choose General District Court.

When is my payment due?

There is a court date on your summons. In order for your case to be considered prepaid, the court must **receive** your payment prior to the court date. We do not take into consideration when the envelope is post marked.

If I pay online, do I have to mail my summons to the court?

No. Once you receive confirmation that your ticket has been paid, that is all you have to do. The online system will send a receipt to the court.

If I pay the ticket, do I have to appear?

You do not have to appear but if you change your mind and wish to appear, please contact the clerk's office to let them know that you will be appearing so your case can be placed back on the court's docket.

Can you take a check over the phone?

No. We do not process checks over the phone or online.

If I can't pay my ticket before court, can I get an extension?

Typically, the court only grants continuances when you plan on appearing in court. Once your ticket goes into court and fine(s) and costs are set, you may contact the clerk's office to enter into a payment agreement IF you cannot pay the total due within 90 days from your trial date.

Do I have to appear in court?

If you wish to contest your ticket, you must appear in court or hire an attorney to represent you. The clerk's office cannot give you legal advice. It is recommended that you contact an attorney if you have any questions.

How many points will I receive? Is this a moving violation?

The court does not assign points to your driving record. All moving violations are reported to the Virginia DMV. If you are a Virginia driver, the Virginia DMV will assign demerit points. If you are an out of state driver, the Virginia DMV will report the conviction to the national registry and that is how your home state will be notified. All states are reciprocal states but it's up to your home state as to how many points you will receive if any.

I was driving a CMV, and the summons was issued to me? Why?

Typically, a summons is issued to the person operating the motor vehicle.

Can you recommend an attorney?

No, we cannot recommend an attorney. The number for the Virginia lawyer referral service is 1-800-552-7977.

Why can't my case be continued multiple times?

The continuance policy for this court is as follows: The clerk may grant one continuance for good cause shown. Any subsequent continuances must be authorized by the judge.

Can I write a letter to the judge?

No. Our judge does not read letters.

Can I have my case transferred to where I live?

No. Your case will be heard in the jurisdiction where the offense occurred.

What types of credit cards do you accept?

We accept VISA, Mastercard, Discover and American Express.

My home state has suspended my license even though I paid my ticket. Why?

The court does not have access to your driving record. Please contact the agency that issues your license.