

Speeding Violations
Miles Per Hour Over the Legal Limit

	10 OR LESS	11-19	20 OR MORE*
POINTS	3	4	6

Other Violations

Reckless driving or racing	6
Deviating from traffic lane	4
Driving wrong side of highway or street	4
Failing to yield right of way	4
Failing to yield to emergency vehicle	4
Imprudent driving too fast for conditions	4
Inattentive driving	4
Passing school bus when red lights flashing	4
Traffic control violation	3
Driving wrong way on one way street	3
Failing to dim lights	3
Following too closely	3
Illegal passing	3
Improper brakes or lights	3
Operating with license expired or without license	3
Prohibited or illegal turn	3
Violation of restriction	3
Parking on highway in traffic lane	2
Defective speedometer	2
No registration plate light	0
Operating with license not on person	0
Vehicle registration violations	0

HOW IS THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF MY CITATION DETERMINED?

The dollar amount written on your citation is actually a combination of a forfeiture and numerous surcharges and fees. The forfeiture is a relatively small part of the penalty you pay.

WHY DO I PAY ALL THESE FEES AND SURCHARGES?

These fees and surcharges are added to your citation according to state statute.

State statutes require that an officer and the court include these fees and surcharges on your citation.

WHERE DO THE FEES GO?

- Municipal Court-City of River Falls
- State
- County



A Citation.....
....Your Rights &
Responsibilities



River Falls Municipal Court
222 Lewis Street
River Falls WI 54022

715-426-3429
Fax number 715-425-0233

Website
<http://www.rfcity.org>

Include your name, citation number, and the court date with your payment to assure proper handling. Please mail payment in the blue envelope provided. Any questions please call the number above.

This does not apply to cases requiring a mandatory appearance.



RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL COURT



INTRODUCTION

You have just received a traffic citation. Before you vent your frustration on the arresting officer, pause a moment and reflect on the driving conduct or behavior which led to your arrest. The officer is only doing the job for which the officer was trained—trying to save you and others from unnecessary property damage, injury, or death. Over 56,000 Americans are needlessly killed each year on our highways. The officer's job is to ensure that you are not one of them.

This brochure is designed to answer questions you may have concerning the citation you have been issued.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I APPEAR IN COURT ON THE DATE OF MY CITATION?

The date on your citation is the date of your initial appearance. An initial appearance is your opportunity to enter a plea to the charge. You may plead guilty, no contest, or not guilty. The initial appearance is not the pretrial or trial date. If you plead guilty or no contest, the court will find you guilty and the matter will be resolved at the initial appearance. Be prepared to pay the citation at that time. If you require a payment plan, be prepared to make a minimal payment.

If you plead not guilty, your case will be scheduled for a pretrial conference at a later date.

MUST I APPEAR IN COURT ON THE DATE SET ON MY CITATION?

You may avoid appearing in court by sending the bond amount prior to your court date.

You may also avoid appearing in court if you enter a plea in writing. Mail or fax your plea to the address or number on the front of this brochure. Include a copy of your citation with your current address and phone number. The plea must be received before the court date on the citation. If your plea is not guilty, a court date for a pretrial conference will be set. A

If you do not post bond and you fail to appear or enter a plea, a judgment will be entered against you for the amount of the citation. From the date of judgment, you will be allowed no more than 30 to 60 days to pay. Failure to pay will result in either a warrant or suspension of your driving privileges.



CAN I CHANGE MY COURT DATE?

No. It is not necessary to change your court date. If you are unable to attend the scheduled court date. You should enter your plea in writing by mail, fax, or in person. This must be received **BEFORE YOUR COURT DATE.**

I WISH TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY, HOW DO I DO THAT AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN COURT?

You may plead not guilty either by appearing in court on or before the date of your initial appearance or by entering a not guilty plea by mail, email, or fax prior to your court date. Mail your not guilty plea to the address on the brochure, fax your plea to the number on the front of the brochure, or email your plea using the form on our website listed below. Please include a copy of your citation with your current address and phone number with your not guilty plea. Forms and additional information are available on our website at <http://www.rfcity.org>. This **MUST** be received prior to your court date. Once the court receives your written not guilty plea a pretrial will be set and you will receive a formal notice by mail. If you fail to appear for your scheduled pretrial you will be found guilty by default and fines and penalties will be assessed. If a settlement is not reached at the pretrial, a trial will be scheduled to be heard in front of the Judge.

If you are found guilty of a traffic violation, your driving record may be charged with demerit points. The point schedule in this brochure lists common traffic violations. If you accumulate 12 points against your driving record within one year (calculated by date of violation), your license will be suspended or revoked.

If you have any questions about the status of your license you should call the Department of Transportation at (608)266-2261 or visit their website at www.dot.wisconsin.gov