

MITIGATION

To prevent any delay in processing your request, please completely fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Infraction #: _____ Hearing Date: _____

We are in receipt of your request for mitigation. The mitigation process can be pursued through one of the following options. Check one of the lines below and return this letter to the court **NO LATER THAN YOUR HEARING DATE**. If you choose either Option #1 or Option #2, you do not need to appear at your hearing.

OPTION #1

_____ If you wish to have your fine reduced, please use the space below and the back of this letter to write your explanation regarding the violation (if you need more space, please attach additional page(s)). Based upon your explanation and the law concerning your particular infraction, the Court Commissioner may reduce your fine and you will receive notification of the decision. ** If your violation is for Expired Registration or No Proof of Insurance, please enclose a copy of your current registration or proof of insurance.

OPTION #2

_____ **OR** if you would like to keep this infraction from being listed on your driving record, you may request Deferred Findings. Please review the back of this form that describes this process. Payment must be submitted with your letter or a payment plan may be requested. **COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE HOLDERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM.**

OPTION #3

OR you can appear on the date above and present your argument for mitigation or request for Deferred Findings personally to the judge. If you choose this option, you do not need to return this letter to the court.

Please be advised that the Court cannot mitigate (reduce) the fines for speeding in a school zone, speeding in a construction zone, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, failure to register vehicle, or for passing a school bus with its stop lights activated.

Failure to respond to this letter or appear for your court date will result in the addition of a \$52 late fee. Further failure to pay the amount owed may result in your fine being sent to collections. The Washington State Department of Licensing will be notified of traffic violations and late payments. The Department of Licensing may suspend your operator's license and will not reinstate your driving privileges until the entire fine is paid, including any and all additional charges.

Checks should be made out to Clark County District Court and mailed to the address above.

** For additional information or assistance, please contact Customer Service at (360) 397-2424. **

DEFERRED FINDINGS PROGRAM

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE HOLDERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM

If you have been cited with traffic infraction(s) out of a single event, one way to avoid the infraction(s) appearing on your driving record is to request Deferred Findings. You may make this request by email (send email request to: district.tickets@clark.wa.gov) or by requesting Deferred Findings when you appear in court. You must make the request before presenting evidence in your case. If the court grants your request, the court will “defer” entering a finding against you and reporting the infraction(s) to the Department of Licensing (DOL) for one year.

The court will impose a non-refundable administrative fee in the amount of \$150.00. This fee helps defray the cost of monitoring your driving record for one year. You must pay the fee in full, by its due date.

If you do not commit another violation for one year from the date the Deferred Finding is entered, and you have paid the administrative fee by the due date, the ticket will be dismissed and it will not appear on your driving record.

The court *cannot* defer a finding if you 1) have a commercial driver's license, or were driving a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the violation or 2) are cited with Negligent Driving in the 2nd Degree with a Vulnerable User Victim.

For the following infractions, the court will require particular information from you, in order to consider your case for a Deferred Finding:

- **Operating Motor Vehicle without Insurance:** court will require proof that you have obtained automobile insurance.
- **Failure to Initially Register a Vehicle / Failure to Renew Registration:** court will require proof that you have obtained proper vehicle registration.

If you have an out-of-State driver's license, the court will require a copy of your driver's license.

You may receive only one Deferred Finding every seven years for a moving violation, and one every seven years for a non-moving violation. Depending on the circumstances, the court may decline to enter a Deferred Finding in your case, *even if you are otherwise eligible*.

If you fail to comply with the conditions of a Deferred Finding, you will be responsible for paying the full amount of your citation – in addition to the administrative fee – and the court will enter a finding of committed and report the infraction to DOL. In addition, any unpaid fee or fine may be transferred to a collections agency. You will not receive any additional notice before your fines are transferred to collections.