New York Speeding Ticket Explained

By Adam H. Rosenblum

The Rosenblum Law Firm P.C.



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Below is a detailed explanation of the different parts of a standard New York State Speeding ticket. We will refer back to each one of the parts throughout this document. Please note that New York City traffic tickets are different and will be explained in a different document.

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I. The Defendant's Information

These boxes display numerous identifying data about the defendant including name, address and information about the car being driven at the time of the stop. It also contains the ticket number in the top right corner

Many people think that if a police officer misspells the driver's name the ticket will be dismissed. This is not a factor which the judge will take into consideration when looking at your case.

II. The Charges

The "Section Sub Section" box indicates which section of the law the defendant is being accused of violating. Below (on the next page) is a list of common New York traffic violations as well as the New York Vehicle & Traffic Law sections they fall under, the amount of points (if any) and the maximum fines and New York State surcharges attached to them. It also lists the date, location of the offense and officer's information.



I. - The Defendant's Information

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II. - The Charges



Speeding Ticket Points & Fine System

Speeding Over State Limit	Points	Fine	Surcharge
1-10 mph over posted speed limit	3	\$150	\$80-\$85
11-20 mph over posted speed limit	4	\$300	\$80-\$85
21-30 mph over posted speed limit	6*	\$300	\$80-\$85
31-40 mph over posted speed limit	8*	\$600	\$80-\$85
40 mph + over posted speed limit	11 **	\$600	\$80-\$85
**Speeding in Construction Zone	Points	Fine	Surcharge
10 mph over posted limit	0	\$150	\$130-\$135
11 -30 mph over posted limit	0	\$300	\$130-\$135
31 mph + over posted limit	0	\$600	\$130-\$135

*Driver Responsibility Assessment Fee (DRA): If you receive 6 or more points as a result of violations that occurred within an 18 month period you will be subject to an additional fine known as the Driver Responsibility Assessment fee (DRA). When you reach 6 points you will be penalized \$300. An additional \$75 will be imposed for each point after the 6-point mark. This penalty is paid to DMV and is separate and in addition to the court fines associated with your ticket.

**At 11 points the NY DMV will suspend your NY license or NY driving privileges (if you live out of state). Any points accumulated for violations which occur within a given 18-month period count towards suspension. If you have a CDL license or a Junior license, the penalties can be even more severe.

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III. Court Info. & Plea Deadline

This particular Section shows the name of the court and its address, along with a date and time for a response, either by postal mail or in person. Most tickets allow a plea to be made by mail, some require a plea to be made in person. To find information and directions to court go to <u>New York court directory</u>.

ALBANY CITY COURT CRIMINAL PART		
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III. - Court Info. & Plea Deadline

IV. SECTION A – PLEA OF GUILTY

Important note: Many people think that if they plea guilty "with an explanation" there is a possibility that the court decide to find them not guilty. This is not the case. Once you fill out this portion of the ticket and mail it in, the court will have no choice but to convict you of the offense.

If you choose to plead "guilty" to the charges fill out this Section and mail to the address of the court mentioned in Section 3. Bear in mind that pleading guilty to certain offenses like "no insurance" can lead to mandatory driver's license suspension or revocation.

Just because you might be guilty of the charged offense does not mean you have to plead guilty. An initial plea of not guilty merely preserves your right to a trial. You can always change your plea to "Guilty" later on, and in most cases where a plea bargain is offered, you will be pleading guilty at some point, but to a less severe offense than the one you are being charged with.



IV. Section A - Plead Guilty

The only way to challenge the charges or get the charges reduced is to plead "not guilty" (see next Section).

It is also a common belief that a person should plead "Guilty" if he or she knows that he was, in fact, guilty. It is important to keep two things in mind:

- Under our legal system, it is the prosecution that has the burden of proof. It is every defendant's right to plead "Not Guilty" and make them do their job which is to prove that you were guilty (or offer you a plea agreement for a reduced charge).
- 2. Entering an initial plea of "Not Guilty" does not mean that there is no going back. To the contrary, all it does is preserve your rights to a plea bargain (if applicable) or trial.



IV. SECTION B - PLEA OF NOT GUILTY

IV. Section B - Plead Not Guilty

If you choose to plead "Not Guilty" fill out SECTION B. The Not Guilty section features a spot for you to request a supporting deposition. A supporting deposition is a written sworn statement detailing the traffic violation and it is signed by the law enforcement officer who issued the ticket. Remember, it is your Constitutional right to plead "Not Guilty" which may lead to a plea bargain or trial which is why we advise this route. You can always change your plea later on, and if an acceptable plea bargain is offered, you will ultimately be pleading guilty to that reduced charge.

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IV. Section B - Plead Not Guilty

Call Us for a FREE Consultation: 888-883-5529