

Traffic Diversion Program FAQs

1. How do I find additional information about the program?
 - For any questions not answered here, please contact the Orleans County District Attorney's Office at 585-590-4130 or email trafficdiversion@orleansny.com.
2. What do I do if I lost my application?
 - Additional copies of the application can be downloaded from the Orleans County website at orleansny.com, click on "Departments" and "District Attorney."
3. How will I know if I am accepted into the program?
 - If you are accepted into the Traffic Diversion Program, you will be notified by mail. Included in the letter will be the date you must appear in court if you fail to complete a certified Defensive Driving Course by that time.
4. Do I qualify for the program if I have my permit?
 - Yes. We accept applicants with permits, junior licenses, and commercial licenses as long as they have a valid automobile insurance policy in effect.
5. Does the \$200.00 fee cover the cost of the required Defensive Driving Course?
 - No. The program fee does not include the cost of the Defensive Driving Course.
6. Do I take the Defensive Driving Course through the District Attorney's Office?
 - No. The District Attorney's Office cannot recommend a particular course to take. You are responsible for finding a certified Defensive Driving Course on your own and then sending a copy of your completion certificate to our office as proof.
7. How do I find qualified Defensive Driving Courses?
 - A list of courses approved by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles can be found at <https://harmonia.dmv.state.ny.us/pirp/>. Genesee Community College also hosts Defensive Driving Courses.
8. Are online Defensive Driving Courses acceptable?
 - Online courses are perfectly acceptable as long as they are certified by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.
9. What do I do if I don't have a copy of my ticket?
 - If you do not have a copy of your ticket, it is your responsibility to contact the court and ask for one. Our office cannot process your application until we receive a copy of the original traffic ticket.

10. What happens if I get another traffic ticket while I'm participating in the Traffic Diversion Program?

- If you get another traffic ticket while participating in the Traffic Diversion Program, you will still be allowed to complete the program because to be eligible for the program you couldn't have been *convicted* of another moving violation within the past 18 months. However, you would not be able to participate in the program again for your more recent ticket because we do not approve applicants who have participated in the program within the last 18 months.

11. Will I have to attend future court dates regarding this traffic ticket, and how do I know if I need to attend?

- As soon as we receive your completed application and \$200.00 check, we will adjourn your case to give you time to complete a Defensive Driving Course. We will also send you a letter stating the date in which you will have to return to court if you fail to complete a course. You will only have to attend future court dates regarding this ticket if you do not complete a course in the time allotted or if you do not otherwise hear from the District Attorney's Office.

12. What is the advantage of choosing to complete this program, rather than taking a plea in court?

- If you take a plea in court, you will be required to pay a fine and an \$85 New York State surcharge. The amount of the fine varies by court, but is between \$100 and \$150 in most cases. You will also acquire points on your license and this conviction will appear on your driving record.
If you choose to participate in the Traffic Diversion Program, we will dismiss your ticket completely upon your successful completion of a defensive driving course. You will not acquire any points on your license nor will a conviction appear on your driving record. Additionally, because a requirement of our program is a defensive driving course, you will be eligible for a reduction in your insurance costs.