

FAQ / LINKS

Appeals

How do I file a Notice of Appeal?

You can file a written Notice of Appeal within 10 calendar days of being found guilty (calendar days include Saturdays, Sundays and holidays). If the 10th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, you may file on the next business day.

You can submit the form in person at Fountain Inn Municipal Court, within the 10 (ten) calendar days of your trial date, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

How long do I have to file an appeal?

You have 10 calendar days from the date the judge made his/her decision (calendar days include Saturdays, Sundays and holidays). If the 10th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, you may file the next business day. You must file at Fountain Inn Municipal Court, located at 300 Wall Street, Fountain Inn, SC 29644, by the 10th day for it to be timely.

NOTE: If the Notice of Appeal is not received within 10 (ten) calendar days of your trial date, your right to appeal will be considered waived.

Will I get another court date if I appeal?

Only if the Court of Common Pleas overturns the Municipal Court's decision.

Court Appearances

What happens if I missed my court date for a criminal charge?

If you did not appear for court and did not contact the officer prior to court, your case was heard and the judge found you guilty in your absence. A warrant was issued for Fail to Appear. You will need to report to the City of Fountain Inn Warrant Division at the Law Enforcement Center at 300 North Main Street, Fountain Inn, SC 29644.

What happens if I missed my court date for a traffic ticket?

If you did not appear for court and did not contact the officer prior to court, your case was heard and the judge found you guilty in your absence. You will need to pay the fine within 15 days of your court date or your driver's license will be suspended until the fine is paid. If your driver's license is suspended for failing to pay a traffic ticket in the city limits of Fountain Inn only, you will be required to pay the fines at Fountain Inn Municipal Court first before you can re-instate your Driver License.

Can I reschedule/continue my court date?

If you need to reschedule your court date and it is before your scheduled appearance, you need to contact the officer at 864-862-4461 (you may have to leave a message). You may also request a continuance in open court; however, you will need a valid reason to do so. The presiding judge may continue the court date, on your scheduled court date, depending on the circumstances of the case.

Do I have to be in court today?

If you were given a court date and time, you will need to either: (1) appear, enter a plea, or ask for a jury trial, or (2) pay the ticket prior to court. If you do not appear, you are subject to having your driver's license suspended (traffic charges) or having a warrant issued for your arrest (criminal charges).

Can I represent myself?

According to state statute, you may represent yourself. You have the right to introduce evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses, make closing arguments and otherwise present a defense to the charges. You will be held to the same standards as an attorney.

My child (age 16 or older) received a traffic ticket. Does [s]he need to appear in court?

In most cases, the ticket may be paid without an appearance; however, there are traffic charges that do require an appearance for traffic violations, regardless of age. If you have any questions regarding required appearances for traffic charges, call (864) 409-0617.

Can I plead by phone?

No. You either need to appear or pay the fine prior to your court date.

How long is the court session (will it last longer than an hour)?

Fountain Inn Municipal Court schedules criminal / traffic court sessions on Tuesday's of each week, starting at 9:00am. Depending on the docket and case load, sessions may last longer than an hour.

Can I appear earlier than my trial date and time and speak with the judge?

You must appear on your designated court date and time. Judges do not talk about pending cases without all parties present. You may contact the officer who was written the citation if you have any questions.

Financial, Fines, Fees

What type of payments do you accept?

We accept cash, credit/debit cards and money orders; no business checks will be accepted nor personal checks.

When do I have to have my fine?

All fines are due on the date posted on the citation(s).

Can my fine be deducted from monies posted for my bond?

Yes, if you are the person who posted the monies for your bond. If someone else posted your bond monies, the fine cannot be deducted.

What will happen if I don't pay my fine by the due date?

If you have a traffic charge and do not pay, your driver's license will be suspended until you do. If you have a criminal charge and do not pay, a warrant will be issued for Contempt of Court.

Can I pay my fine online?

Yes.

Can I pay my fine over the phone?

Fines must be paid in-person at Fountain Inn Municipal Court 300 Wall Street Fountain Inn, SC or the by mail or online. Fines may be paid by cash, credit/debit cards and money orders only. No personal or business checks will be accepted.

What are court costs?

Court costs are fees and assessments assigned by state statute created by the South Carolina legislature.

General Information

What are your hours of operation?

Fountain Inn Municipal Court is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (noon).

What do I do about the officer being rude?

You will need to contact the officer's supervisor at (864) 862-4461 (you may have to leave a message).

Why aren't the employees more helpful?

The law prohibits any city employees (other than the Municipal Judge) from explaining or interpreting the law. As a result, court employees must refrain from answering many questions asked of them because to do so would constitute legal advice, which court personnel may not provide.

What is the DMV telephone number?

1-803-896-5000

General Legal Questions**How do I get an attorney?**

You have the right to hire your own attorney. If you cannot afford one, you may apply for a court-appointed attorney. The judge will consider the request, and based on guidelines established by state law if you are eligible.

What is a surety bond?

A surety bond can come from a bondsman, a property with clear title, and/or friends or relatives who will make sure you will appear for court.

Can I use my credit/debit card to post bail?

State statute authorizes the payment by credit/debit card.

What is a recognizance bond?

You sign a bond form saying you will appear for court and follow any and all conditions until your court date.