

KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

) NO. 23-09  
) GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
)  
) Replaces GAO 22-04  
)  
) FTA Failure to Appear Infractions  
)

**WHEREAS** the Court recognizes that persons may have an inability to appear in person or remotely for infraction hearings and access to justice is important. Non-appearance in these matters results in a Failure to Appear (FTA) Court Minute Entry, additional fees being imposed, and, when required, reporting of such FTAs to the Department of License which can result in license suspensions; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to appear or respond and license suspensions for non-criminal matters has had a negative economic impact on individuals across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, access to public transportation is limited and where available, may pose an increased risk to some populations.

**WHEREAS**, there are many populations for whom the utilization of a vehicle is the only means of transportation for employment, medical needs, and essential services; and

**THEREFORE, it is now ORDERED:**

If a defendant or their attorney contacts the court within one year of the date of the citation being issued, by telephone or in writing, and requests to have their ticket status reviewed, the defendant may have a contested or mitigation hearing, one time only. The clerk shall set a contested or mitigation hearing as requested, vacate the committed finding(s) and any penalty(ies) imposed, remove any FTA order, remove any FTA penalty and recall the case from collections (if it has been referred to collections). If the defendant or attorney wishes to pay ticket/infraction within one year of the date of the citation, the defendant may pay the ticket and the clerk shall process the payment as if it were paid timely, and the clerk shall remove the FTA and recall the case from collection (if it has been referred to collections). Any action taken under this GAO shall be noted by the clerk in the case notes.

This GAO replaces GAO 22 04 upon the signing of this Order.

Dated this 11 day of August, 2023

  
Matthew York, Chief Presiding Judge