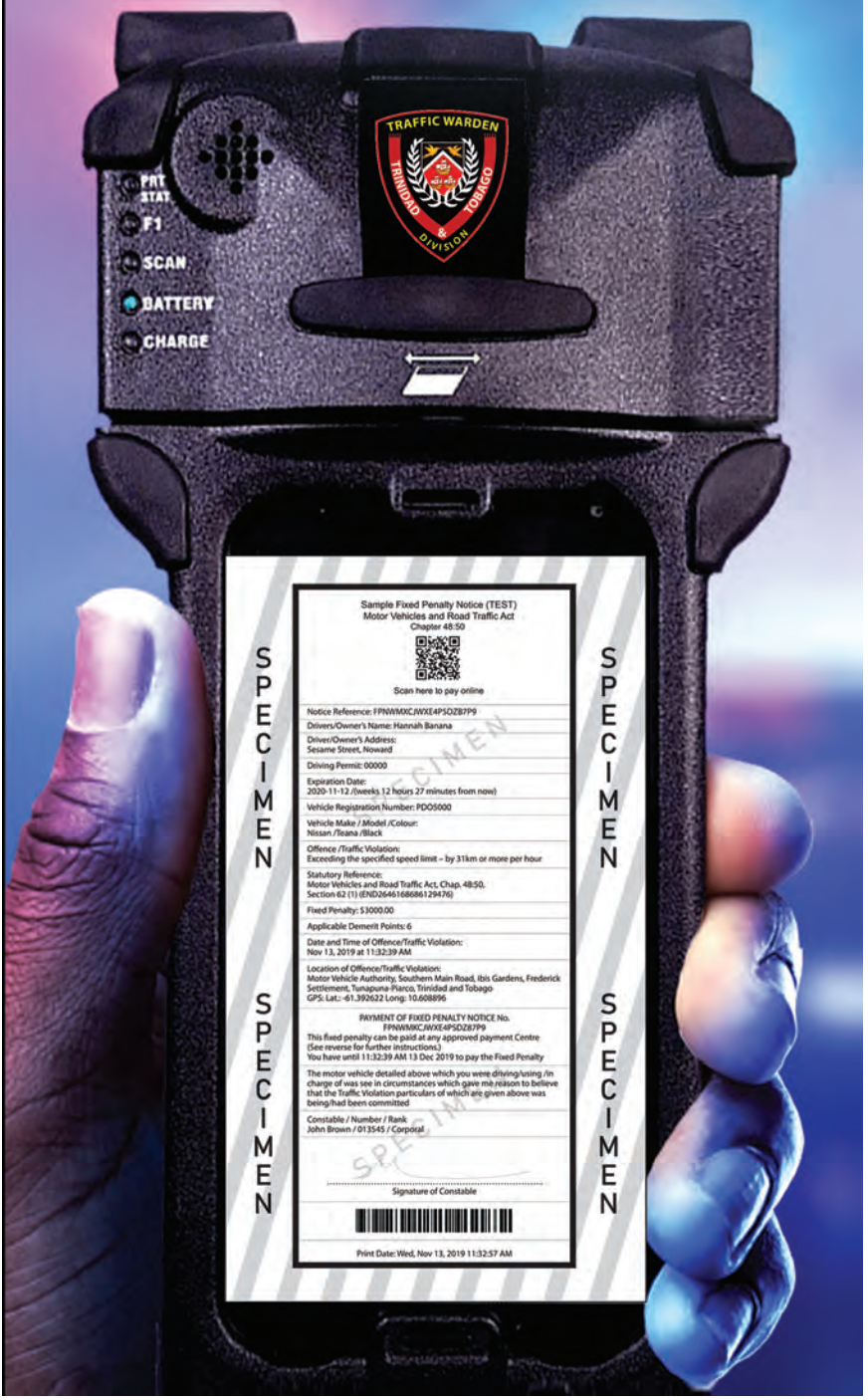
MINISTRY OF
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A Guide to Understanding the

New Traffic Ticketing System

(Fixed Penalty Notice)





MOST COMMON TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

SPEEDING

Penalties for exceeding the speed limit can range from $1000.00 upwards to $3,000.00 depending on the excess at which you were travelling beyond the limit.



RUNNING RED LIGHT

Violating a red-light traffic signal carries a fine of $1000.00 to be paid within forty-five (45) days.



FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY

Driving too closely to the rear of the vehicle in front of you is classified as careless driving. Six (6) demerit points will be placed on your driving record.





DRUNK DRIVING

Conviction of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) by a law enforcement officer carries a penalty of nine (9) demerit points on your driving record.



WRONG DIRECTION

For ignoring traffic signals and travelling in the wrong direction, offenders will be charged a $1000.00 fine and receive three (3) demerit points.



UNSAFE LANE CHANGING

Switching lanes without appropriate indication or discretion carries a penalty of six (6) demerit points on your driving record.



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WHAT IS THE NEW TRAFFIC TICKETING SYSTEM?

What is the New Traffic Ticketing System?

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 48:50 has undergone some extensive changes. This revised legislation modernises the present Traffic Ticketing System by:

- Decriminalising a wide range of traffic offences into traffic violations;
- Providing new platforms for the payment of traffic fines such as cashless transactions;
- Providing convenient options for the payment of traffic tickets with the introduction of new payment locations;
- Providing law enforcement officers with greater connectivity and instant access to data; and
- Reducing the backlog of pending cases before the Traffic Courts.

The new system improves outdated procedures and practices for road traffic law enforcement by the use of modern technology, through a software management system called the U-Turn System.



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WHAT IS THE NEW TRAFFIC TICKETING SYSTEM?

(Continued)

Electronic traffic tickets (E-tickets) and mobile handheld devices

One of the major improvements in the traffic ticketing system, is the use of mobile handheld devices by law enforcement officers to issue tickets. Other benefits include:

1. The migration from a paper-based ticketing system to the use of electronic ticketing devices;
2. A significant reduction in the time taken (from 25 minutes to 2 minutes) to issue and record the details of the traffic violation;
3. Improved accuracy of the information recorded by a law enforcement officer.

Note: Ticket books will continue to be utilized by law enforcement officers until they are completely phased out.

Both paper-based and electronic tickets will be managed by the Traffic Enforcement Centre utilizing the U-Turn software management system.

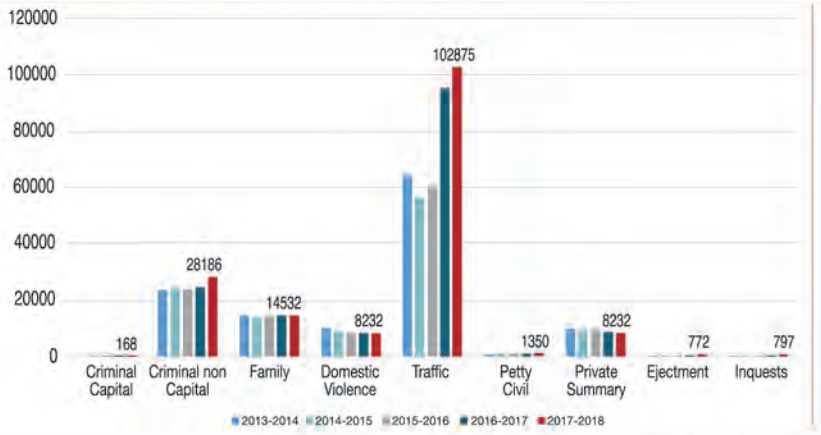
When a traffic ticket is issued, the information is transmitted instantly to the following organizations:

- The Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation (TTPOST), to receive and process payments;
- The Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago, should a Notice to Contest be filed by the traffic violator;
- The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, for archiving and further action.

WHY THE NEED FOR A NEW TRAFFIC TICKETING SYSTEM?

Statistics obtained from the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago show that during the period 2017- 2018, over 102,000 traffic related cases appeared before the Magistrates' Court.

Cases Filed (by case type) over the last 5 Law Terms



Statistics obtained from Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago's Annual Report for Law Term 2017/2018
http://www.ttlawcourts.org/annualreport2017/2017-2018%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Judiciary%20Trinidad%20 Tobago_1.pdf

The high number of traffic matters continues to clog the judicial system and results in a backlog of pending cases, since there are:

- Extensive delays due to the paper-based system;
- Numerous adjournments in matters due to the non-appearance of police complainants and defendants on court hearing dates; and
- Several inconveniences experienced by citizens when paying traffic fines.

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HOW DOES THE NEW TRAFFIC TICKETING SYSTEM WORK?

The new traffic ticketing system provides an opportunity for the administrative settlement of fines for traffic violations, without having to go through the court system. Officers will be utilizing the mobile handheld ticketing devices and a newly designed paper-based traffic ticket.

The following law enforcement officers are authorized by law to issue traffic tickets:

- Police Officers;
- Supplemental Police Officers of specific public bodies;
- Licensing Officers; and
- Traffic Wardens.

After a traffic ticket is issued by a law enforcement officer, the recipient has 30 days in which to pay the fine. The applicable number of demerit points will be applied to his/her driving permit record upon payment.

It is important to note that not all offences can be dealt with by way of a traffic ticket. Depending on the seriousness of the breach and the circumstances, the law enforcement officer may serve a summons on the driver to appear before a Court.

For a list of traffic violations and offences which can result in a Fixed Penalty Traffic Ticket, visit our website **drivingtt.com** .

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A TRAFFIC TICKET?

If you receive a traffic ticket, you have two options:

1. Pay the ticket fine within thirty (30) days from the date of issue; or

2. File a notice to contest within fifteen (15) days from the date of issue and request a court hearing.

Detailed instructions are printed on the reverse side of the traffic ticket.



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PAYING THE TRAFFIC TICKET

Under the new system, payments will no longer be accepted at the Magistrates' Courts. Payments can be made at authorised TTPOST locations nationwide, by cash, debit card and soon, credit card. Please refer to the table at the end of this booklet for a listing of authorised payment locations.

A person will need the traffic ticket reference number, driving permit number and the vehicle registration number, to make the payment. **The payment must be made in full and in one transaction.** No instalments or part-payments will be accepted.

Detailed instructions on how to make a payment are also printed on the reverse side of the traffic ticket.



FAILURE TO PAY THE FINE ON A TRAFFIC TICKET

Refer to the table below if a fine for a traffic violation is not paid on time and a notice to contest is not filed.

Example: Traffic Ticket for use of a mobile phone while driving (Reg.5, MVRT (Mobile Devices) Regs Ch. 48:50).

Traffic Violation	Payment Amount	Payment Period	Demerit Points
Using Mobile Phone while driving	$1000.00 to be paid	Thirty (30) days	Three (3) demerit points
Fails to pay traffic ticket within thirty (30) days	Escalation of 25% applies. $1,250.00 to be paid	Additional fourteen (14) days	
Fails to pay $1,250.00 within the additional fourteen (14) days	Another escalation of 25% applies. $1,500.00 to be paid	Additional fourteen (14) days	

If the escalated fine is still unpaid, the Licensing Authority is now empowered by law to impose administrative sanctions as follows:

- Suspension of driving permit of the driver or owner of the vehicle;
- Ceasing of all transactions in relation to the traffic violator (driver or owner of the vehicle); or
- Ceasing of transactions with the vehicle involved in the traffic violation, until the $1,500.00 is fully paid.

Once the payment of the applicable sums is made, the administrative sanctions referred to above will be immediately lifted, however the demerit points will remain recorded against the driving permit record of the driver.

As part of this new traffic ticketing system, a **demerit points system** will be utilised to track the behaviour of drivers by the allocation of points to their driving records, for the commission of certain traffic violations and offences. To learn more about the demerit points system, visit **drivingtt.com.**

CONTESTING THE TRAFFIC TICKET

If a driver wishes to contest a traffic ticket, he/she may seek the assistance of an Attorney-at-Law. He/she can file a Notice to Contest with the Court within fifteen (15) days from the date of issue of the ticket via the portal on https://contest.ttlawcourts.org or by visiting a Magistrates' Court.

Detailed instructions on how to contest a traffic ticket are printed on the reverse side of the traffic ticket.

A driver will need the traffic ticket reference number, their address, telephone contact and email address. He or she may provide reasons for challenging the traffic ticket.

Upon filing the Notice to Contest the traffic ticket, the matter will be booked for a court hearing. The driver will be informed of the date, time, and the location of the Magistrates' Court that he/she will be required to appear in.

After filing a notice to contest, if the thirty (30) day period has not elapsed, and if the driver no longer wishes to contest the traffic ticket, he/she may still pay the fine. The fine can be paid within the prescribed thirty (30) days at any authorised TTPOST location.

If the driver is found guilty by the Court, this can result in the imposition of the maximum fine under the law. For example, the stipulated fine on a traffic ticket may be $1,000.00 whereas under the Act the maximum fine for the same traffic violation may be **$6,000.00.**



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AUTHORISED TTPOST LOCATIONS

The following table provides a listing of the authorised TTPOST locations for the payment of traffic tickets.

Note: The information in the table below is subject to change.

Authorised TTPOST Payment Outlet	Location
Arima Corporate Shop	#17 Prince Street, Arima
Bon Accord Corporate Shop	Milford Court, Bon Accord, Tobago
Chaguanas Corporate Shop	Eleanore & Southern Main Road, Chaguanas
La Romaine Corporate Shop	#2 Lucky Street, La Romaine
National Mail Centre Corporate Shop	#240-250 Golden Grove Road, Piarco
San Juan Corporate Shop	#5 Eastern Main Road, San Juan
Scarborough Corporate Shop	Teal Building, Scarborough, Tobago
St. Ann's Corporate Shop	#29 St. Ann's Main Road, St Ann's
St. James Corporate Shop	#61-63 Western Main Road, St James
St. Vincent Street Corporate Shop	#22-24 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain
Tragarete Road Corporate Shop	#177 Tragarete Road, Port of Spain
Tunapuna Corporate Shop	Eastern Main Road, Tunapuna



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information about
the new Traffic Ticketing System,
please visit our website **drivingtt.com**
or contact us at **info@drivingtt.com.**

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