

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
YOSEMITE DIVISION**

**INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NON-MANDATORY CENTRAL VIOLATIONS
BUREAU CITATIONS**

VIOLATIONS

Many violations issued in Yosemite National Park do not require a court appearance. If your ticket indicates an appearance is optional and specifies an amount of collateral to be paid, you may pay that amount directly to the Central Violations Bureau ("CVB") without appearing in court.

Violations paid directly to the CVB are **not** reported on your *criminal record* by the CVB. Please note that all moving violations are reported by CVB to your state's Department of Motor Vehicles whether they are paid through the court or the CVB.

TRAFFIC SCHOOL

You may be eligible to take traffic school which may afford some protection concerning DMV points depending on your driving record, license type and violation. Please note, in order to be eligible for traffic school, you must apply two weeks before scheduled court date. Apply at the following link:

<http://www.caed.uscourts.gov/traffic-school/formynp.asp>

CONTESTING A VIOLATION

Although your violation does not require a court appearance, you have the right to appear in court to challenge your violation. You may plead not guilty and proceed to trial or to plead guilty and argue mitigating circumstances in an attempt to reduce the amount of your fine. Please be aware that a plea of guilty or a conviction after trial may result in a criminal conviction, as most citations issued in Yosemite are "B" Misdemeanors.

During the court closures related to the COVID-19 emergency, court hearings are being held by video appearance via zoom.

Please connect to the court through the Zoom link found here:

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608580457?pwd=dmR2N2lYT1M1WVJyOUVHSlBnQUUvdz09>

Meeting ID: 160 858 0457

Passcode: 048762

If you cannot connect through Zoom, email or call the court to make other arraignments: kdunbar-kari@caed.uscourts.gov or 209-372-8917.

Appearances are at 2:00PM on the date your payment would otherwise be due.

You have the right to have an attorney represent you. Parties wishing to contest their violation or argue mitigating circumstances are encouraged, but not mandated, to try to reach a resolution prior to appearing in court.

If you choose to represent yourself or if you have retained an attorney, you may contact the Yosemite National Park Legal Officer Sean Anderson at sean_o_anderson@nps.gov, if your ticket was in Stanislaus National Forest or Sierra National Forest, please contact Michael Cone at michael.cone@usda.gov, and if it took place on Bureau of Land Management please contact Kevin Lawson at kevinlawson@blm.gov to discuss your violation and attempt to your ticket without court intervention.

If you are seeking the assistance of an attorney, you may contact the Federal Defender, Mr. Benjamin Gerson, for the Eastern District of California at 559-487-5561 or benjamin_gerson@fd.org. In certain cases, you may be entitled to have an attorney appointed by the court represent you at no cost. The Federal Defender is available to discuss your violation and explain your options with you before you appear in court.