

Frequently Asked Questions for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Traffic Court:

Can I receive both a Tribal Traffic Ticket and a NYS Traffic Ticket?

Yes, in some instances you may receive both a state and a SRMT ticket.

Will the charges be reported to the DMV?

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Traffic Tickets are not reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles. These tickets are handled here in the Tribal Court. The Court does not report these tickets to the State or to the DMV. Although a memorandum of understanding between the SRMT and NYS DMV (or other DMV's) is possible, currently none exist.

As a non-member of the Tribe, am I subject to the jurisdiction of the SRMT Police/Court?

Yes, when entering the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation while operating a vehicle you are subject to SRMT jurisdiction as such conduct can clearly affect the health and well being of tribal members and residents.

Can I mail in my tickets if I want to admit to the charge

Yes, you can mail your ticket(s) in if you wish. You will need to complete the back of the ticket and mail the ticket to the following address:

**SRMT Tribal Court
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne NY 13655.**

Do I need to come to court if I am admitting to the charges?

You do not need to come to court if you are admitting to the charges, you can either mail the ticket(s) in, or you can bring the signed ticket(s) to the SRMT Tribal Court Clerk and she will give them to the Judge. You will be mailed a letter of the Judge's decision the day after your scheduled court appearance.

How much will my fine be?

Fines will vary dependent upon the charge that you receive. Speeding fines and fees are listed on the back of the ticket. All judgments will include a fine and a court fee.

Where can I pay my fine?

You can pay your fine by either mailing your payment in or coming to the Justice Building located on State Route 37 in Akwesasne; and, ask for the Court Clerk.

If it is after business hours the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Dispatcher can take payment if needed.

What does the court accept as form of payment?

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court accepts the following as forms of payment: American currency; Money Orders and Cashiers Checks. The court can not accept Canadian Currency; Credit/Debit Cards or Personal Checks.

Can I make payment arrangements if I can't afford the whole fine? And how do I do so?

Yes you can. You must contact the court and speak with the Court Clerk to set up payment arrangements. If you are in need of an extension of the payment due date, then you will need to let the Court Clerk know so that she may schedule you in to see the Judge. The Judge is the only one who can grant an extension.

What happens to the fine and fee I pay?

Those monies are collected by the SRMT Court and are given to the SRMT, pursuant to tribal ordinance these funds are used to off set the Court's and Police costs associated with providing services here on the reservation.

Can I request a reduction?

If you would like to request a reduction, you must come to court and speak with the Judge and the SRMT prosecutor.

What happens if I don't come to court?

If you do not make it to your scheduled court night, then you will receive a letter with a rescheduled court night. This will be your final chance to come to court, if you do not appear in court, the Judge may make a Default Judgment against you and you will be mailed a letter of such judgment notifying you of your fee and fine.

What happens if I don't pay my fee and fine?

If you fail to pay the fine imposed on you, then the next time that you are ticketed by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police you may be issued a New York State Traffic Ticket instead of a St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Traffic Ticket. If you receive a NYS Traffic Ticket it may impact your driving record and it may affect your insurance as well. The SRMT Court maintains a database of those who have failed to pay their Tribal judgments. This may soon be made available publicly and could be picked up by credit reporting agencies. In addition, current proposed changes to the SRMT Traffic Law include provisions for the seizure of

vehicles for failure to pay judgments, and for tribal members, the denial of non-essential tribal services.

Who do I call for more information?

If you have any questions in regards to your ticket(s) you can call the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Clerk at 518-358-6300 Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00am -4:00pm.

What if I don't agree with the charges, what do I do?

If you do not agree with the charges that are imposed on you, then you must come to court and state your case in front of the Judge. Please inform the Court Clerk if you would like the ticketing officer to be present on your scheduled court night.

Do I have a right to a trial?

Yes you do, the procedure for a trial is provided for in the SRMT Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance.

If I am under the age of 18 do I need my parent with me for court?

If you are between the ages of 16-18, it is your choice to have your parents present with you in court.

What do I do if I need to reschedule my court date?

If you need to reschedule your court night, you must contact the Court Clerk by 4:00pm of your scheduled court night.

How long has Tribal Court been handling vehicle and traffic matters?

The first SRMT V & T ordinance was established in 1998, with the sitting of 2 Judges at that time.

When does Vehicle and Traffic Court convene?

The V & T court convenes every Monday night and the 2 elected Judges, rotate their assignment every other Monday.

Has the SRMT V & T Court been well received?

Although there was some initial reluctance, the SRMT V&T court is now fully operational and based on court data, over 95% of the people who come into contact with it are compliant with the orders issued by the court.

How can SRMT Police Department issue tickets to either/both SRMT or NY Courts?

The SRMT Police are empowered by both the SRMT and NYS (They have enabling laws from both). This was chosen to help the SRMT Police best address the unique environment they work in, and to best address the safety concerns of the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Community. As a side note, data gathered by the SRMT Court indicates that the SRMT Police respond to over 3,500 incidents on the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation in 2008!

If you have any further questions, you may contact either the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court at 518-358-6300 or the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Public Information Office at 518-358-2272