



What is the breakdown of your bail or fine?

Penalties and Assessments

What is a Penalty Assessment?

It is an amount added to base bail and base fines on infraction, misdemeanor and felony offenses. The current penalty assessment (June 10, 2010), is \$26 for each \$10 or portion of \$10 fine or bail as set by the California State Legislature. The \$26 Penalty Assessment is charged pursuant to Penal Code section 1464 and Government Code sections 76000, 70372, 76104.6, 76104.7 and 76000.5.

In addition to the penalty assessment, a \$40 court operations assessment is added for each infraction, misdemeanor or felony violation resulting in a conviction pursuant to PC 1465.8. Effective Jan. 1, 2009, an assessment in the amount of \$30 for each misdemeanor or felony and \$35 for each infraction is added for each conviction (GC 70373). There is also a 20% State Surcharge, effective since September 20, 2002, imposed on the base bail or base fine amount. This 20% may not be used to calculate the Penalty Assessment per each \$10 of fine or bail. These penalties are also included in the calculation for traffic school.

Example of fine amount for vehicle code:

Base fine amount	(\$25)	\$ 25.00
Penalty Assessment	(\$78)	30.00
		21.00
		15.00
		12.00
State Surcharge 20%		5.00
Court Operations Assessment		40.00
Conviction Assessment Fee		35.00
Admin Fee		15.00
EMAT Fee		4.00
Total Fine		\$ 202.00

Where the money goes

State Automation 2%, County 18%, City 80%
State Penalty Fund (PC 1464) 70% State, 30% County
County Penalty Fund (GC 76000)
State Court Facilities Construction Fund (GC 70372)
DNA Identification Fund (GC 76104.6 and GC 76104.7)
State General Fund (PC 1465.7)
To fund security in the trial courts (PC 1465.8)
To fund building/maintaining trial courts (GC 70373(a)(1))
Administrative Fee (VC 40508.6a, b)
Emergency Medical Air Transportation (GC 76000.10(c))

Traffic School

Traffic School calculation is based on Base Fine + Penalty Assessment + Security Fee + State Surcharge + Conviction Assessment + Admin Fee + Traffic School State Mandated Fee. Effective September 1, 2011, the Traffic School State Mandated Fee is \$52. (VC 42007.1(a))

Proof of Correction

Effective January 1, 2009, the fee is \$25 for each correctable violation when submitting proof of correction. (VC 40611)

Prior Moving Violations

The base fine for one Vehicle Code moving violation that is assessed 'points' on a current arrest or citation shall be enhanced by \$10 for each 'prior' conviction within 36 months of the new alleged offense.

The Court's Responsibility

The trial courts are required to follow the law as established by the Legislature. The trial courts do not establish these fines or fees. If you are concerned with the amount of your fine, you may wish to contact your state legislator.