



Port Orchard
Municipal Court

**DWLS
VEHICLE
IMPOUND
INFORMATION**



Port Orchard Municipal Court

216 Prospect Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Phone: 360.876.1701
Fax: 360.895.3071

JUDGE TARRELL S DECKER

Port Orchard Municipal Court

Tel: 360.876.1701

IMPOUND INFORMATION



Can I have an impound hearing with the Port Orchard Municipal Court?

NO!

- Your car has been impounded by the Port Orchard Police Department for Driving While License Suspended or for violating Port Orchard Municipal Code 10.72. Based on your arrest and your criminal history, the Port Orchard Police can order your vehicle held for 15, 30, 60, or 90 days.
- **Impound hearings do not address vehicles impounded for driving while license suspended or violating Port Orchard Municipal Code 10.72.**

Impound hearings address two issues only:

- Was the tow lawful?
- Did the tow operator charge the appropriately-posted rate for towing and storage?

If you request an impound hearing, you must pay a \$63 filing fee, which will not be refunded regardless of the outcome of your case.

How do I get my vehicle released before the end of the 15, 30, 60, or 90 days?

You may request a “hardship” hearing based on economic or personal hardship to have the vehicle released before the 15, 30, 60, or 90 day impound period, **only** if:

- 1) You are the **spouse** of the driver **and** you are the registered owner **or** authorized to redeem the vehicle by the registered owner, or
- 2) You are the owner of the vehicle and you were not the driver, you did not know that the driver’s license was suspended or revoked, **and you have not received a prior release.**

A Hardship Hearing will not be granted to the driver of the vehicle!

To request a Hardship Hearing with Port Orchard Municipal Court, the spouse of the driver or the owner of the vehicle if the owner was not the driver must contact the Court at 216 Prospect Street, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

If you are granted a Hardship Hearing, you must bring the following with you to the hearing:

- Proof of ownership of the vehicle or authorization from the owner
- Proof of a valid driver’s license
- Proof of insurance covering the impounded vehicle

At the Hardship Hearing, the Judge **may** release the vehicle prior to the end of the impound period, **only** after consideration of the threat of public safety that may result from release of the vehicle including, but not limited to, the driver’s criminal history and driving record.

The decision of the Court is final and not appealable.

How do I get the vehicle released?

1. **Within 5 days of the vehicle impound**, arrange with the tow company to pay all towing, removal, and storage fees. Failure to do so may result in the vehicle being sold at public auction. The law prohibits the resale of the vehicle to the registered owner.
2. **Contact the Department of Licensing** to get a current abstract of your driving record to find out why your license is suspended. It will show what courts have outstanding and/or unpaid matters affecting the status of your driving privilege.
3. **Contact all of the courts** individually that have a hold on your license and pay all such matters in full. Payment plans are unacceptable.
4. After you obtain a valid driver’s license and insurance, **bring proof to the Court** at 216 Prospect Street, Port Orchard, WA 98366. The Court will sign an order to release the impounded vehicle when the registered owner pays an administrative fee of \$100 and shows:
 - Proof of ownership of impounded vehicle
 - Proof of a valid driver’s license
 - Proof of insurance
 - Mandatory impoundment stay has been met
5. Take proof of ownership and signed court order to the towing company to redeem vehicle.

If you have further questions or need more information, you may contact:

Deborah M. Hunt, Court Administrator
Port Orchard Municipal Court
216 Prospect Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-876-1701