

Appealing a parking ticket

Any person who feels that a parking ticket was issued in error should **first speak with the officer who issued the ticket**. If it remains unresolved, they may contest the parking ticket by filling out a "**Parking Ticket Appeal Form**". A copy of the form is available at the Saco Police Department, 20 Storer Street, Saco, Maine.

All persons receiving a citation have a right to appeal **within 5 days of receiving the ticket**. To file an appeal, complete the form. The administrative review involves no court appearance. The appeal will be reviewed within five days by either the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Police Department. If the administrative review is denied, you are obligated to pay the fee noted on the ticket within five days of notice of denial.

General reasons that violations won't be dismissed

Below are some commonly listed reasons given for violating parking regulations. While these reasons may seem valid to the violator, they are not considered legitimate reasons for violating City of Saco ordinances and will not be considered on appeal.

- **Short errands**

No errand, no matter how short or how important to the driver (short of a bona fide medical emergency), is an acceptable excuse for illegal parking. A short errand is a very common excuse. It is not a valid reason for illegal parking.

- **Late for business or personal appointment**

Being late does not permit the driver the privilege of parking illegally.

- **No other place to park**

Other than being an invalid excuse, this, in fact, confirms the driver's liability. It is the driver's responsibility to locate legal parking.

- **"I didn't see the sign." or "I didn't understand the sign."**

Drivers are required to look for signs when parking. This may mean checking an entire lot or block from corner to corner. Drivers are also required to abide by the message on the signs. Saying that you did not see a sign preventing parking is not an acceptable excuse.

- **Only part of my car was illegally parked.**

A violation is not based on a certain percentage of the vehicle being illegally parked. If part of the vehicle extends into a restricted area, the violation is the same as if the entire vehicle encroached.

- **"I left someone in the car."**

"I left my parking lights on (or blinking)."

"I left a note on the car as to my whereabouts."

"I left the motor running."

Many drivers seem to think that evidence of a short stay erases their offense. It does not. The purpose of parking regulations is to restrict vehicles from certain places. The presence of a passenger, a note or blinking lights does not satisfy this purpose and does not constitute a valid reason to dismiss a violation.

- **"It was only a few minutes."**

This explanation is one of the most common claims. Even if true, parking in a prohibited area is still a violation.

- **"Nobody else got a ticket."**

Sometimes this excuse is raised as discriminatory enforcement. The officer may have had to leave the area before checking all the vehicles; however, a parking citation stands on its own.

- **"Someone else had my car; I wasn't even driving it."**

The registered owner has joint responsibility with the person driving his or her car. Unless it can be shown by the registered owner that the car was driven without permission, the registered owner, renter or lessee is responsible for a parking citation.

- **Violation not enforced in the past, or, "I've parked there for years."**

This normally is not the case; however, inadequate staffing or other priorities may give rise to violations not being enforced continually. Apparent failure to enforce parking laws does not constitute a valid excuse for illegal parking,

SACO POLICE DEPARTMENT PARKING TICKET APPEAL FORM

NOTE TO APPLICANT:

- (1) PLEASE FILL IN FIELDS WITH DATA FROM YOUR TICKET.
- (2) PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY. IF YOUR APPEAL IS NOT LEGIBLE, YOUR APPEAL WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DENIED.
- (3) BY SIGNING THIS FORM, YOU AGREE TO THESE TERMS.
- (4) MAIL TO: *Chief of Police, SACO POLICE DEPARTMENT, 20 STORER STREET, SACO, ME 04072*

Ticket #: _____
(Bold number in the upper right corner)

Location: _____

Date Ticket Issued: _____ Time Ticket Issued: _____

Registration of Ticketed Vehicle: _____ State of Registration: _____
(License Plate)

Vehicle Make: _____ Type/Model: _____ Color: _____

Registered Owner's Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Number of Issuing Officer: _____

Type of Parking Violation: _____ Fee: _____

Reason for the Appeal: _____

Signature: _____ *Please use reverse side if needed* Date: _____

YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR APPEAL WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF THE TICKET DATE. YOUR APPEAL WILL BE REVIEWED WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS. FOLLOWING THE REVIEW OF YOUR APPEAL, A DECISION WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU BY U.S. MAIL. YOUR PENALTY WILL NOT INCREASE DURING THE APPEAL PROCESS. YOU MAY ONLY APPEAL A TICKET ONCE. TICKETS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DENIED WILL NOT BE REVIEWED AGAIN. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, YOU AGREE TO THESE TERMS.

BELOW FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

_____ Appeal Granted _____ Appeal Denied Amount Due: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notes: _____
