


JEFFREY S. ROSELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2026**

Contact: Doug Allen (831) 454-2930

SCAM ALERT INVOLVING FAKE NOTICES OF TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeff Rosell and **San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins** issued a joint consumer alert warning people to beware of a nationwide scam involving fake notices of traffic violations. The notices, which may be received via text message or email, look as if they come from the court and may be entitled "NOTICE OF HEARING - TOLL VIOLATION" or "NOTICE OF HEARING - TRAFFIC VIOLATION" or something similar. They claim to "notify" the recipient about a pending court hearing and instruct them to avoid the hearing by paying court costs in advance. The notices may include a QR code or hyperlink which directs the user to a payment portal. An example of such notice is depicted below.

These notices are scams. Courts do not send traffic notices via text or email. If you receive one, do not access the QR code, click on any hyperlinks, or attempt to make any payment. If in doubt, check directly with the court which purportedly sent the notice to confirm that no case exists or payment is required.

DA Rosell said, "Legitimate government agencies and courts do not demand immediate payment by text message or through unconventional payment methods. It is imperative that our residents stay alert, stay informed, and report suspected scams to their local law enforcement or our consumer protection unit."

Santa Cruz County residents are urged to report this scam to the **Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit** at 831-454-2050 or send a copy of the email to CFEP@santacruzcountyca.gov.

San Francisco residents can contact the **San Francisco District Attorney's Consumer Protection unit** at (628) 652-4311 or send a copy of the email to SFDA.ConsumerFraud@sfgov.org.

BELOW IS A SAMPLE NOTICE THAT SCAMMERS HAVE SENT TO THE PUBLIC

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Case No: CA-26-TL-102588 Judge: John Smith

NOTICE OF HEARING — TOLL VIOLATION

You are hereby notified that you are alleged to have committed the following violation within San Francisco, California:

Violation: Failure to Pay Electronic Toll / Toll Evasion

Authority: Cal. Veh. Code § 40258
Related Authority: Cal. Veh. Code § 40255
Related Authority: Cal. Veh. Code § 40267


It is alleged that the operator or registered owner of a motor vehicle failed to pay an assessed electronic toll and/or became subject to a toll evasion civil penalty under California law and applicable toll facility enforcement procedures.


You must:

- Appear for a hearing on the date and time listed below; OR
- Resolve the matter by payment of the assessed toll, civil penalty, and authorized court costs prior to the hearing date.

HEARING LOCATION:
Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco
Civic Center Courthouse
400 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 551-4000

HEARING DATE & TIME:
March 9, 2026
9:00 AM
Issued: March 2, 2026

Scan QR code to pay: 


John Smith
John Smith
Clerk of the Court
San Francisco, California