



<b>Calvert County's Automated Speed Enforcement Program Frequently Asked Questions</b>	
<b>What Is Automated Speed Enforcement?</b>	Automated Speed Enforcement is an enforcement technique utilizing speed monitoring systems to detect vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 12 miles per hour. The automated speed monitoring systems utilize radar technology to measure the speed of every vehicle that passes the camera. Images are captured of vehicles detected exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 12 miles per hour and those images are processed and reviewed in an office environment to be approved as a citation. All citations are reviewed and certified by a Deputy Sheriff (OPERATOR). Violation notices are then mailed to the registered owner of the violating vehicle. Often, automated speed monitoring systems are referred to as speed cameras. In Calvert County, Speed Monitoring Systems are utilized in designated school zones.
<b>What Is a Speed Monitoring System Operator?</b>	<p>A speed monitoring system OPERATOR is a representative of an agency that operates speed monitoring systems. Prior to program implementation, Operators must be trained and certified by the manufacturer of the speed monitoring device. During this time, Operators are trained on the procedures for operating the speed monitoring device, processing violations, MD law, and judicial procedures.</p> <p>Throughout the length of the County's ASE program, Operators must maintain daily calibration logs for the device to ensure that all components of the speed monitoring system are in proper working order prior to producing recorded images and being placed into enforcement. Operators with the Calvert County Automated Enforcement Program are sworn Deputy Sheriff's with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.</p>
<b>What Is Considered a School Zone?</b>	Per the Maryland Annotated Code, school zones can only be established within a ½ mile radius of a school. School zones are designated with appropriate signage that depict the beginning and ending of the zone.
<b>What Is the Primary Goal of the Automated Speed Enforcement Program?</b>	The Calvert County Automated Speed Enforcement Program is a safety program focused on changing driver behavior through a comprehensive effort involving engineering, awareness, and enforcement in order to reduce speeds, resulting in safer roadways overall. The County's Automated Speed Enforcement Program uses Automated Speed Monitoring Systems to enhance the safety of motorists and pedestrians within the limits of Calvert County.

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<b>Program History &amp; Background</b>	
<b>What Are the Guiding Principles of the Calvert County's Automated Speed Enforcement Program?</b>	<p>The Calvert County Sheriff's Office program principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly identify and communicate speed-related safety problems to the public.</li> <li>• Make Automated Speed Enforcement sites visible to road users through signage and media outlets.</li> <li>• Deploy Automated Speed Enforcement in school zones where they fulfill a bona-fide need.</li> <li>• Ensure a fair program by deploying Automated Speed Enforcement after careful consideration and study.</li> <li>• Determine the effectiveness of the program through ongoing evaluations.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Authorization</b>	<p>Recognizing that speeding and aggressive motorists present significant public safety problems, the Calvert County Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance No. 30-15 on July 28, 2015, authorizing the use of automated speed enforcement systems.</p>
<b>What Law Allows For Speed Monitoring System Use?</b>	<p>Maryland Transportation Article 21-809</p>
<b>How Are Sites Selected?</b>	<p>A variety of factors are used to determine the automated speed enforcement deployment locations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of school zone (e.g., must be on a street with a posted speed limit of at least 20 mph, spreading out sites to achieve maximum effect, etc.)</li> <li>• Safety data (e.g., children exposure / risk, congestion, crash history, violation history, etc.)</li> <li>• Temporary traffic control set-up (e.g., number of lanes, time of day, duration of school, etc.)</li> <li>• Prior to implementation, an extensive data analysis is conducted to identify the areas in which additional enforcement countermeasures would be the most effective. Cameras may be added or removed at the discretion of the Sheriff, based on the review of traffic data, accident history, and citizen complaints.</li> </ul>
<b>How Will the Public Be Informed When New Safety Zones Are Enforced?</b>	<p>Newly established enforcement sites are published in local newspapers, via Calvert County Sheriff's Office social media postings and through press releases. All automated enforcement system locations are listed on:  <a href="https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2066/Speed-Cameras">https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2066/Speed-Cameras</a>.                      Prior to enforcement, roadway signage will be posted clearly indicating that automated speed enforcement systems are operational, and all existing sites have signage designating the area as a school zone utilizing speed monitoring systems.</p>

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<p><b>What Hours Can Speed Monitoring Systems Enforce in School Zones?</b></p>	<p>In accordance with the governing statute, enforcement may take place Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Enforcement will take place on designated roadways in school zones. Speed cameras remain in use during these hours throughout the summer months and on other weekdays when school is not in session. The need for motorists to drive carefully in school zones exists even when schools are not in session, as school sites are used for summer school, recreation and parks activities, summer athletics, and other child-oriented activities.</p>
<p><b>Automated Speed Enforcement Systems</b></p>	
<p><b>How Does Radar Systems Work?</b></p>	<p>Radar works on the Doppler Shift Principle. Put simply, a radio wave with a known frequency is emitted from the transmitter/receiver. When the wave strikes a vehicle moving away from the unit, it returns to the receiver and the difference between the lower frequency wave and original wavelength is calculated into a speed. If the speed is above the designated speed, a photo is taken of the violating vehicle. This violation is confirmed manually by the Operator.</p>
<p><b>How Do I Know the Camera Was Functioning Properly at the Time of My Violation?</b></p>	<p>The entire system undergoes extensive testing prior to, and throughout each deployment. The results of the testing are captured and recorded in daily calibration logs. The cameras will only operate if all of the components are working properly and will automatically shut down in the event that any error is detected. The equipment must then be re-tested and revalidated before recording additional images and violations.</p>

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<p><b>When and How Often Are the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Calibrated?</b></p>	<p>All components of each Automated Speed Monitoring System are checked each day to ensure that they are all in full and proper working order. Maryland law requires the system Operator to complete a daily log that states the date and time, and the location of the device, and that the Operator confirmed the device passed manufacturer specified self-tests before producing a recorded image. The testing procedures are completed prior to an enforcement deployment.</p> <p>Additionally, Maryland law requires the speed monitoring system equipment to undergo an annual calibration check performed by an independent calibration laboratory.</p> <p>No speed monitoring system will be placed into enforcement unless all components are functioning properly and in accordance with all provisions of the law.</p>
<p><b>Couldn't the Radar Beam Have Detected a Vehicle Near Mine?</b></p>	<p>No, the Speed Monitoring Systems in use are designed for multi lane object tracking and are capable of detecting and distinguishing specific objects while in simultaneous motion or in close proximity. The technology employed distinctly identifies each individual object within the field and will not allow another vehicle or object to cause misidentification of a violating vehicle regardless of how many vehicles are within the area. A violating vehicle will not be confused with other vehicles that may appear in the same photograph.</p>
<p><b>What Is the Process After the Violation Is Recorded?</b></p>	<p>After an alleged violation is recorded, it is reviewed by the contractor for initial approval. This review is completed to ensure the equipment worked properly and all contractual requirements are met. A listing of registration is obtained through the Motor Vehicle Administration and is attached to the alleged violation. The alleged violation is then sent to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for approval.</p> <p>At the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, only certified Operators have the ability to review all of the available information, then approve or disapprove the alleged violation. The certified Operators ensure the equipment worked properly, and the alleged violation is consistent with state law. If it meets these requirements, the alleged violation is approved.</p>

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<p><b>What Is the Process After the Violation Is Recorded? Continued</b></p>	<p>After the violation is approved by a certified Operator, the contractor sends a Citation to the registered owner of the car. If the initial Citation is not satisfied by the due date, a second notice is sent with a late fee assessed. If payment is not received by the due date on the Delinquency Notice, a request for registration flagging is sent to the Motor Vehicle Administration.</p>
<p><b>Citation Questions</b></p>	
<p><b>Why Did I Get a Citation?</b></p>	<p>A vehicle, registered or leased to you, was photographed exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 12 miles per hour. Vehicles exceeding the posted maximum speed limit are detected automatically and two photographs are taken. On each photograph are the date, time, location and speed of vehicle when the violation occurred.</p>
<p><b>Where Is the Citation Sent?</b></p>	<p>The citation is mailed to the address listed by the MVA of the vehicle's registered owner.</p>
<p><b>What Happens if I Moved and/or Did Not Receive the Citation?</b></p>	<p>If you moved since obtaining your license plates and did not update your address with the Motor Vehicle Administration, or if you believe that you may have received a citation, but did not receive a notice in the mail, you can call Customer Service at 443-354-3068 or 866-979-4824, and ask if there is a citation for your license plate number. Be sure to remain compliant with MD law and update the Motor Vehicle Administration with your vehicle's registration information upon any changes of address.</p>
<p><b>How Long After the Violation Is the Citation Sent?</b></p>	<p>By law, the citation is required to be mailed within 14 days of the violation for vehicles registered in the state of Maryland and 30 days for all other states.</p>
<p><b>What Information Will Be Displayed on the Citation?</b></p>	<p>The citation will include three photographs, two photographs showing the vehicle committing the violation and a photograph of the vehicle's tag number. Those photographs will include a data bar that contains the date, time, and location of the violation; violation number; speed limit; vehicle speed; and equipment number. The citation will also include instructions for paying the fine or for requesting a court date. It will contain the signature of the Deputy Sheriff who certified the citation by reviewing the images and determined that the violation took place. The citation also contains a link to a website where you can view the images online.</p>

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<p><b>Is the Citation a "Traffic Ticket"?</b></p>	<p>No. This citation is not considered a "moving violation." It is a civil citation holding the registered owner or lessee responsible for the violation (similar to a parking ticket). No points can be assessed for this violation, and it will not raise your insurance rates.</p>
<p><b>What If I Lost My Citation?</b></p>	<p>You may call Calvert County's Automated Speed Enforcement Customer Service at: 866-979-4824 or 443-354-3068 .</p>
<p><b>What Happens if I Do Not Pay the Citation?</b></p>	<p>If you fail to pay the citation in full by the due date or request a court date by the specified time, your vehicle registration may be flagged and subject to refusal or suspension. If your registration is flagged, you may owe additional flagging fees.</p>
<p><b>Citation Payment</b></p>	
<p><b>How Do I Pay the Citation?</b></p>	<p><b>If the Citation starts with "CE":</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Pay by Web:</b> Go to <a href="http://www.onlinecitationpayment.com">www.onlinecitationpayment.com</a> to pay via credit card (Visa/MC).</li> <li>○ <b>Pay by Phone:</b> Call 866-979-4824 and follow the automated prompts. Please have your citation number and PIN number in order to submit payment.</li> <li>○ NOTE: A \$4.95 processing fee is applied when using a credit/debit card.</li> <li>○ <b>Pay by Mail:</b> Check or money order must be payable to the <b>Calvert County Sheriff's Office</b>. Mail your payment and payment stub to <b>Calvert County Automated Speed Enforcement, PO Box 830732, Philadelphia, PA 19182-0743</b>. Include the citation number, vehicle tag number, and state on your check or money order to ensure proper credit. Do NOT send cash.</li> <li>○</li> </ul> <p><b>If the Citation starts with "CC":</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Pay by Web:</b> Go to <a href="http://www.ip360ateg.com">http://www.ip360ateg.com</a> to pay via credit card (Visa/MC).</li> <li>○ <b>Pay by Phone:</b> Call (443) 354-3068 and follow the automated prompts. Please have your citation number and PIN number in order to submit payment.</li> <li>○ NOTE: A \$4.00 processing fee is applied when using a credit/debit card.</li> <li>○ <b>Pay by Mail:</b> Check or money order must be payable to the <b>Calvert County Sheriff's Office</b>. Mail your payment and payment stub to <b>Calvert County Automated Speed Enforcement, PO Box 5046, Hagerstown, MD 21741</b>. Include the citation number, vehicle tag number, and state on your check or money order to ensure proper credit. Do NOT send cash.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Walk -In payments are not available.</b></p>

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<p><b>Can I Contest the Violation?</b></p>	<p>Yes. You may request to appear in District Court by returning the completed form, found at the bottom of the notice you received. It must be received at least five days prior to the Date Due shown on the front of the notice. If you appear in Court, the maximum amount you can be charged is the amount of the fine listed on the citation plus court costs. You will be notified by mail of the court date. If you do not receive a notice within 30 days, call the Calvert County Automated Speed Enforcement Customer Service Line at 866-979-4824 or 443-354-3068.</p>
<p><b>Court Questions</b></p>	
<p><b>How Do I Cancel a Scheduled Court Date?</b></p>	<p>A court date can be cancelled via a telephone call or written request prior to the scheduled court date.</p>
<p><b>Can I Be Represented by an Attorney?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Necessary Procedures to Remove a “Flag”</b></p>	<p>Failure to pay an issued citation may result in the MVA placing a “flag” on your vehicle’s registration.</p> <p>Once the MVA notifies you about a “flag” being placed on your vehicle record, you must complete the following procedures for removal of the flag:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All citations that resulted in a registration flag must first be satisfied.</li> <li>2. Any administrative flagging fees implemented by the Motor Vehicle Administration must be satisfied.</li> </ol>
<p><b>What Do I Do if My Vehicle or Registration Plates Were Stolen?</b></p>	<p>To demonstrate that the motor vehicle or the registration plates were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation, the owner shall submit proof that a police report regarding the stolen motor vehicle or registration was filed in a timely manner. The police report may be presented as evidence at a hearing in District Court. For additional information, you may contact Customer Service at 866-979-4824 or 443-354-3068.</p>

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<p><b>What if I Was Not Driving the Vehicle?</b></p>	<p>Liability for citations ultimately rests with the registered owner. However, If you, the registered owner, were not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation, in order to prove that you were not the driver, in addition to your testimony at trial, the law requires you to provide a letter to the District Court that states that the person named in the citation was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation. You must request a hearing and send this letter after you have received your hearing notice. Please include your citation number and the case number (if different from the citation number). Please mark your envelope, "TRANSFER OF LIABILITY". Include any other corroborating evidence. You must swear or affirm to this and send your letter certified mail, in accordance with MD Transportation Article 21-809.</p>
<p><b>Who Do I Contact if I Have Specific Questions Regarding a Citation I've Received?</b></p>	<p>Contact Calvert County's Automated Speed Enforcement Customer Service at: 866-979-4824 or 443-354-3068.</p>