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Bußgeld — Traffic Fines in Germany

Guide to German traffic fines (Bußgeld), penalties for speeding and violations, Flensburg penalty points system, and driving bans (Fahrverbot).

Deutsche Begriffe: Bußgeld | Bußgeldbescheid | Punkte | Fahrverbot | Blitzer | Flensburg | Einspruch | Fahreignungsregister

What is Bußgeld and Bußgeldbescheid

In Germany, you pay a **Bußgeld** (fine) for traffic violations. After an offense, the authority (Bußgeldstelle) sends you a **Bußgeldbescheid** — a written decision with the amount, any **Punkte** (points) in Flensburg, and sometimes a **Fahrverbot** (driving ban). The decision is sent by mail to the address on your registration, so after moving, be sure to do your registration and re-registration — otherwise you won't receive the letter and might miss the appeal deadline.

2026 Rates — Speed Violation

Fines according to **Bußgeldkatalog 2026**:

• **outside built-up areas**: from 20 to 700 €,

• **in built-up areas**: from 30 to 800 € (fines are higher in cities).

Punkte in Flensburg are added from **21 km/h** over the limit — both in cities and outside. **Fahrverbot** (1-month driving ban) is imposed from **31 km/h over the limit in built-up areas** and from **41 km/h outside built-up areas**. You'll also receive a ban as a repeat offender (twice over 26 km/h within one year).

Points and Loss of License

You accumulate points in the **Fahreignungsregister** in Flensburg. At **8 points**, the authority withdraws your **driver's license** — then you face the entire procedure for regaining it. Details about the document itself and its replacement can be found in the article driver's license in Germany. **Fahrverbot** is particularly painful when driving is part of your job — check what your Arbeitsvertrag says about it.

Einspruch — Appeal

You have **2 weeks** from the date of receiving the **Bußgeldbescheid** to file an **Einspruch** (appeal). You submit it in writing to the office indicated in the decision. If you miss the deadline, the decision becomes final and you must pay. With a speed camera (**Blitzer**), it's worth checking whether the photo actually shows you as the driver.

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