



Frequently Asked Questions on Payments of Court Costs, Fines and Fees

- 1. What is the Collections and Compliance Department?** – The Collections and Compliance Department was created and designed to assist in the collection of court costs, fees, and fines assessed against persons convicted of misdemeanor or felony charges when they are not prepared to pay all court costs, fees, and fines at the time of assessment.
- 2. What happens when I get to the Courts Collection and Compliance Department?** -You are required to complete an application for a payment plan. The information on this application will be verified and evaluated to establish an appropriate payment plan for each defendant.
- 3. Do I need to make a payment today? How much?** -Yes. In most cases the total amount of court costs, are due the day of your sentencing. In very rare cases up to 72 hours may be allowed for you to pay a significant amount of your fines and court costs.
- 4. What happens if I do not go to the Collection and Compliance Department and execute my court ordered payment plan?** – If you fail to come to the Collections and Compliance Department to set up a payment plan Adult Probation will direct you back to the Collections office. If you fail to comply a warrant will be issued for your immediate arrest.
- 5. What happens if I do not fill out my application in full?** - You will be asked to complete the application and you will start over at the end of the line. If you do not know the answer to the question write “I do not know” or place a question mark where your answer should be. If a question does not apply to your circumstances write N/A (non-applicable) or place a dash (-) in the space. All the spaces must be filled in for the application to be complete.
- 6. Will the information I give on the application be verified and checked?** – Yes. Some of the items will be checked before and during the interview. Other items will be checked after your payment plan is signed and executed.
- 7. How much time does the process of applying for the payment plan take?** - In most cases where the application has been completely filled out your payment plan can be processed within twenty minutes.

- 8. After leaving the courtroom can I decide to go ahead and pay in full my court costs, fees and fines instead of coming to the Collections and Compliance Department?**-Yes. You may pay at the appropriate cashier's office. Personal checks will not be accepted.
- 9. What happens if I make one or two payments and forget to pay the rest? -** You will be notified by phone and with written notice when you become delinquent on your payments. If you do not comply with all of the provisions of your court ordered payment plan at some point a warrant will be issued for your immediate arrest.
- 10. How long do I have to pay my fines, court costs and fees? -**The majority of the payment plans are structured where 100% of your fines, court costs and fees will be paid within ninety days of your court sentence. Extended time to pay will be granted upon review of your completed application.
- 11. Can I use my cash bond as a payment towards my court ordered payment plan? –** Yes. You can request to do so in person by written authorization.
- 12. Can I include my probation fees with my payment plan? -** No. The Criminal Code of Procedures under CCP.103.0033 only allows for the Court Collection and Compliance Department to set up a payment plan for your court costs, fines and fees.
- 13. Can I pay the total I owe early? –** Yes. You can pay the payment plan off early at any time. The County Clerk's office accepts Master Card, Discover and American Express. The District Clerk's office accepts Visa, Master Card and Discover. You can also pay with cash, money orders and cashier checks. Personal checks are not accepted.
- 14. Will the judge know if I pay off my payment plan early? –** Yes. All payments are posted to the system and delinquencies are reported.
- 15. If a warrant is issued for my arrest can I make a new payment plan? -** No. The Collection Compliance Department will not be able to make new payment arrangements because you have an outstanding warrant on the case.
- 16. How will the Denton County Collection Compliance Department know if I am past due? -** Delinquent amounts for the payment plans are checked daily by this office and needed action is taken immediately.