Court Services

Information Sheet

Court Levies

A Victims Support Levy and/or Court Costs Levy may be payable if you are convicted of an offence, including where a matter is dealt with under section 10 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*. Levies must be paid within 28 days of the conviction date. Contact the court if you cannot pay within the time allowed.

Victims Support Levy (VSL)

$109 (Summary offences) $240 (Indictable offences)

The Victims Support Levy (formerly **Victims Compensation Levy** or **VCL**) is an amount levied on people who are convicted of an offence by a court. The money raised from the VSL goes to the Victims Support Fund and provides financial and counselling assistance to victims of violent crime in NSW.

The VSL is not a penalty imposed by a court or judicial officer; it is imposed automatically by the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

Exemptions from VSL

The following offences are exempt from VSL:

- Offences relating to use of offensive language
- Offences relating to travelling on public transport without paying the fare or without a ticket
- Offences relating to engaging in offensive conduct
- Offences relating to parking, standing or waiting of a vehicle.

Court Costs Levy (CCL)

$85 (Summary proceedings)

The Court Costs Levy is an amount levied on people who are convicted of an offence in summary proceedings before a court. The money raised from the CCL contributes to the cost of running courts and the justice system.

The CCL is not a penalty imposed by a court or judicial officer; it is imposed automatically by the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* when a person is convicted of an offence in summary proceedings.

Exemptions from CCL

The levy is not payable in certain circumstances, including:

- Convictions resulting in a sentence of imprisonment (other than a suspended sentence)
- Convictions in proceedings before the Drug Court
- Convictions in proceedings before the Children's Court
- A finding of guilt in relation to a traffic offence by the Local Court when dealing with an accused person under Division 4 of Part 3 of the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987.*

Section 10 orders

For the purpose of the VSL and CCL, orders under sections 10A, 10(1)(b) and 10(1)(c) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* are treated as convictions and may attract a levy.

A charge dismissed under section 10(1)(a) may attract the VSL and CCL where the offence is punishable by imprisonment. However, neither levy is payable where a charge is dismissed under section 10(1)(a) and the offence is not punishable by imprisonment.

Can a levy be appealed?

No. There is no right of appeal against either levy. The legislation does not provide for the withdrawal or cancellation of a levy. If you cannot pay the amount owing, contact the court and ask for further time to pay or arrange payment by instalments. If you are under 18 years of age, you can ask the court to direct that you are not liable to pay either VSL or CCL.

If you do not pay the levy, additional enforcement costs may apply.

Disclaimer: This information sheet has been prepared for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. While the information in this document has been prepared with all due care, you should seek independent legal advice relevant to your circumstances.