

Paying Court Fines

Local Court of NSW Information Sheet



Communities
& Justice
Court Services

Within 28 days of a court ordering you to pay a fine, you will need to pay it in full, arrange to pay by instalments or request an extension of the time allowed to pay. If you do not make arrangements within 28 days, an additional \$65 penalty will apply.

How can I pay the fine?

You can pay by:

- **Credit card** –at the local court or by telephone.
- **Cheque or money order** –payable to the Local Court.
- **EFTPOS** –at the local court.
- **Centrepay instalments** – if you receive a Centrelink benefit, you can request deductions from your benefit. Complete the *Early Enforcement Payment by Centrepay Instalments* form, available from a local court or www.localcourt.lawlink.nsw.gov.au
- **Instalments** – if you do not receive a Centrelink benefit, you can apply to pay by instalments direct to the court. Complete the *Application for Time to Pay Court Fines* form, available from a local court or www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au

You can also **ask for an extension** of the 28 days if you need more time. Contact the local court immediately if you cannot make a payment that you have agreed to make.

What if I don't pay on time?

If you do not pay the fine or instalments on time, the Revenue NSW will take further action on the fine and you will have to pay an extra \$65.

Revenue NSW can:

- Suspend or cancel your driver's licence or vehicle registration
- Send the sheriff to your house to take your property
- Take money from your bank account
- Order you to do community service
- For Commonwealth offences, take other action.

For more information visit www.revenue.nsw.gov.au or contact Revenue NSW on 1300 138 118.

What if I can't pay the fine?

If you cannot pay the fine, you might be eligible for a Work and Development Order (WDO) to be made by the Revenue NSW. A WDO allows you to clear your debt with activities like unpaid work, counselling, courses or treatment programs.

To be eligible for a WDO you must be homeless, have a mental illness, intellectual disability or cognitive impairment, serious addiction, or be experiencing acute financial hardship.

Visit <https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/> for more information or call the WDO hotline on 1300 478 879.

Do I need to pay a levy or other costs?

Yes, if the court has made a cost order or a levy payable by law applies in your case. This can include:

- Victims Compensation Levy – payable on certain offences to contribute towards compensation for victims.
- Court costs – an amount for commencing the prosecution or action against you.
- Professional costs – legal costs payable to another party in the case.
- Witness expenses – costs for witnesses attending.

Need help?

Contact LawAccess NSW, a free service for people with a legal problem in NSW. Telephone 1300 888 529 (TTY 1300 889 529) or www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au.

Or contact the local court; contact details are on your fine notice or visit www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au (Contact Us). Otherwise call 1300 679 272 and ask to be connected to the court your fine relates to.