



Frequently Asked Questions for Justice of the Peace Courts

- 1. Do I have to drive to Denton to the Collection and Compliance Department?** *No, you may complete an application at the Justice of the Peace (JP) office or you can download the application from the Justice of the Peace web site. You may mail or fax the completed application to the court. They will verify at least 2 contact phone numbers. You will then be contacted by the Denton County Collection and Compliance Department within 3 to 10 business days. Once a payout agreement is established you will be mailed a copy of your payment agreement. A copy of the payment agreement will be signed at the Justice of the Peace office when first payment is made or may be mailed along with your first payment. In the event you have not heard from the compliance department you **must** contact them either in person or by phone, **1450 E. McKinney St., Suite 1400, Denton, TX 76209, (940)349-2030. Failure to pay your fines and court costs will result in a warrant for your immediate arrest.***
- 2. Do I need to make a payment today? How much?** *In most cases, you will have 10 days from the date of sentencing to pay your fine in full or request a payment plan. If you request a payment plan, **a significant payment will be required the day of sentencing or within 72 hours.** A \$25 “time payment fee” is assessed per case for any payment plan exceeding 30 days.*
- 3. What happens if I do not contact the Collection and Compliance Department and execute my court ordered payment plan?** *A warrant will be issued for your immediate arrest.*
- 4. What happens if I do not fill out my application in full?** *You will be asked to complete the application and failure to do so will delay the process. 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.*
- 5. Will the information I give on the application be verified and checked?** *Yes, some of the information will be verified before you leave. Other items will be checked after your payment plan is signed and executed.*
- 6. What happens if I do not tell the truth on the application?** *Giving wrongful or false information on your application may result in your prosecution for the offense of aggravated perjury, a felony punishable by imprisonment not to exceed ten (10) years and a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or both fine and imprisonment.*
- 7. During the 10 days after sentencing and before I must enter a payment plan, can I pay it off in full early? How?** *Yes, go to the J P Office where you can pay your fines, fees and court costs in full. You may pay with cash, money order, or cashier's check in person or by mail. You may pay on-line with a Master Card or Visa credit card, however; you must contact the court for information on your case before doing this, and there is a 4% convenience fee added. **No personal checks accepted.***

8. **What happens if I make a payment and forget to make the rest?** *You will be notified by phone and given 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.*
9. **How long do I have to pay out 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 thirty days of your court sentence.*
10. **Can I use my cash bond as a payment towards my court ordered payment plan?** *Yes, you can request to do so in person or by written authorization.*
11. **Can I pay the total I owe early?** *Yes, go to the J P Office where you can pay your fines, fees and court costs in full. You may pay with cash, money order, or cashiers check in person or by mail. You may pay on-line with a Master Card or Visa credit card, however; you must contact the court for information on your case before doing this, and there is a 4% convenience fee added. No personal checks accepted.*
12. **How do I get a receipt of my payment?** *A receipt will be provided if you pay in person at the JP office. If you pay by mail, and would like a receipt, you will need to provide a self addressed, stamped envelope to the court.*
13. **Will the judge know if I pay off my payment plan early?** *Yes, all payments are credited at the Judge's office. When the fine has been paid in full a zero balance will appear in your case file.*
14. **If a warrant is issued for my arrest can I make a new payment plan?** *No. Once a warrant is issued for non-compliance of your payment plan, the only way to have the warrant recalled is for you to pay 100% of the delinquent amount you owe.*
15. **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.*
16. **Why can't I make my payment plan with the Judge like I did before?** *The Texas Legislature passed a law that changed the execution of payment plans for court costs, fines and fees from the judges to the newly created Collection and Compliance Department.*