



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 with JP tickets, misdemeanor or felony charges when one is 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 will be 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. May I fill out the application for payment plan online?** – Yes. You may log on to dentoncounty.gov/228/Collections to access the application for payment plan. Once completed, you may send it to our office by mail, email at collectionspastdue@dentoncounty.gov or fax to 940-349-2031 within 24 hours of your final plea hearing.
- 4. 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.
- 5. What happens if I do not go to the Collection and Compliance Department and execute my court ordered payment plan?** – If you fail to report to the Collections and Compliance Department to set up a payment plan, Adult Probation (if applicable) may direct you back to the Collections office. If you fail to comply, a warrant may be issued for your immediate arrest.
- 6. What happens if I do not fill out my application in full?** – If submitting in person, you will be asked to complete the application and you will start over at the end of the line. 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. If submitting by email, you will receive a correspondence from our office notifying you that the application is being rejected and to resubmit a completed application.
- 7. 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.

- 8. 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 thirty minutes.
- 9. After leaving the courtroom can I decide to go ahead and pay in full my court costs, fees and fines instead of reporting to the Collections and Compliance Department?**-Yes. You may pay at the appropriate cashier's office. Personal checks will not be accepted.
- 10. 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 we may notify your Probation officer if you are on probation, or a we may recommend to the courts that a Capias Pro Fine warrant be issued for your immediate arrest for non-payment.
- 11. 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 are to be paid within 180 days of your court sentence. Extended time to pay will be granted upon review of your completed application.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Can I include my probation fees with my payment plan?** - No. A payment plan is for your court costs, fines and fees. Any probation fees or restitution will be paid to Adult Probation.
- 14. 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.
- 15. Will the judge know if I pay off my payment plan early?** – Yes. All payments are posted to the system and delinquencies are reported.
- 16. If a Capias Pro Fine warrant is issued for my arrest can I make a new payment plan?** - Yes. You will have to petition the court to recall the warrant and allow you to set up a new payment plan.
- 17. What happens if I cannot afford to make all of my payments?** Please notify the Collections Compliance office of any financial hardships you may be having. In most cases, we may be able to lower your monthly payment amount or if you qualify, you may be able to complete extra community service in lieu of payment (misdemeanor cases only). A new application for payment plan will need to be completed before we can amend your existing payment plan.