

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO PAYMENT OF FINES AND COSTS

A defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense punishable by fine only is entitled to alternative methods of satisfying the judgment if the defendant is unable to pay the fine or costs, in whole or part. The court in which the conviction is entered should be contacted for details on how to pursue these available alternatives, including arranging for a hearing or other inquiry before the judge to make the determination of inability to pay.

These alternative methods include:

1. Payment plan: A defendant may be permitted to make payments toward the fine and costs in designated intervals over time. NOTE: if any amount is paid more than 30 days after the judgment assessing the fine or costs, then a \$15.00 one-time payment fee may be assessed.
 - Payment plans are subject to approval by judge
 - Payment plans are final convictions
 - Payment plans are not allowed for Deferred Disposition and DSC requests
 - A down payment is required to start payment plan
 - Failure to make payments after initiating a payment plan could result in a warrant being issued
2. Community Service: A defendant is entitled to a minimum of \$100.00 credit for every 8 hours of community service performed
 - Community service requests are subject to approval by judge
 - Community service agencies will be assigned by judge's approval
3. Waiver of fine and costs: If performing community service imposes an undue hardship, a defendant may file an Affidavit of Inability to Pay fine and costs for approval by judge.