

Paying Court Fines

Local Court of NSW Information Sheet



Justice &
Attorney General

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 in time to pay. If you do not make arrangements within 28 days, an additional \$50 penalty will apply.

How can I pay the fine?

You can pay by:

- Credit card – over the telephone or in person at the Local Court
- Cheque or money order – make payable to the Local Court
- EFTPOS – in person at the Local Court
- Instalments (Centrelink) – If you receive a Centrelink benefit, you can apply for deductions to be made direct from your benefit. You will need to complete the *Early Enforcement Payment by Centrepay Instalments* form. This form is available from a Local Court or online at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lc. Select Forms & Fees, then scroll down to Fines.
- Instalments (Court) – If you do not receive a Centrelink benefit you can apply to pay by instalments that you must pay direct to the court. You will need to complete an *Application for Time to Pay Court Fines* form. This form is available from a Local Court or online at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lc. Select Forms & Fees, then scroll down to Fines.

You can also ask for an extension of the 28 days if you need more time.

If you cannot make a payment that you have agreed to make, you should contact the Local Court immediately.

What if I don't pay the fine or don't pay on time?

If you don't pay the fine on time, make suitable payment arrangements, or default on your payment arrangements, you will have to pay an extra \$50 and the State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO) will take further action on the fine.

The SDRO 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 perform community service.

If the fine was ordered for a Commonwealth offence, other types of enforcement action may be taken against you.

For more information, visit www.sdرو.nsw.gov.au.

Do I need to pay a levy or other costs?

Yes. The Local Court order can include costs in addition to the fine that you have to pay. This can include:

- Victims Compensation Levy – a levy payable on certain offences to contribute towards compensation for victims.
- Court costs – an amount for commencing a prosecution or action.
- Professional costs – legal costs payable to the other party in the case.
- Witness expenses – costs of witnesses who attended.

Need help?

- LawAccess NSW provides a free service for people who have a legal problem in NSW. Telephone: 1300 888 529 (TTY 1300 889 529), or visit www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au. Interpreters can be arranged by telephoning 131 450.
- The Local Court can answer questions about fines. Check the fine notice posted to you for the address and telephone number, or visit www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lc, select Contact Us, then Local Court Locations. Otherwise, contact the switchboard on (02) 8688 7777 and tell them the name of the court you need to contact.