

Dealing with Philadelphia Court Fines and Costs for Cash Assistance Benefits

Community Legal Services (CLS) can help if you are having problems getting public benefits.

CLS sees new clients with problems about Cash Assistance, SNAP (Food Stamps) and Medical Assistance on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9 am and noon.

We see new clients in person—first come, first served.

Our office is at
1410 W. Erie Ave.
(Broad and Erie).
215-227-2400



In order to get cash assistance, you need to be in a payment plan for court fines and costs. Here is what to do if you had cases in Philadelphia.

TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU OWE

Go to the basement of the Criminal Justice Center at **1301 Filbert St.** and ask for your “Participant Accounting Report” or PAR.

TO PAY YOUR COURT FINES AND COSTS

Go to the Payment Center in the basement of the Criminal Justice Center. For some cases, you may also be able to pay online at: <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/ePay/Default.aspx>

TO GET INTO A PAYMENT PLAN

Walk in any weekday from 9:30AM-4:30PM for a Payment Plan Conference at the Criminal Justice Center, Basement Room 004. You do not need an appointment.

Bring the welfare office’s criminal history form. If the welfare office does not give you one, you can get it here: <https://bit.ly/2AjEcbN>
Keep a copy of this form once it is filled out!

PAYMENT PLANS

Only agree to a monthly payment plan you can afford. You can ask for a monthly payment of \$5 or \$10. If you have no income, you can ask for a \$0 payment plan for a period of time.

If you don’t currently have income, make sure that the start date for your payments is after you start getting benefits.

Center City Office:

1424 Chestnut St. | Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505 | Telephone: 215-981-3700 clsphila.org

North Philadelphia Law Center:

1410 West Erie Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19140-4136 | Telephone: 215-227-2400

Supervision Fees May Be Waived

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SUPERVISION FEES MAY BE WAIVED

If you were charged fees while you were on probation, you may be able to get them waived (that is, wiped out or forgiven) or reduced.

Your supervision fees may be waived if you are:

- Unemployed
- 62 or older with no income
- Unable to work due to a disability
- Getting public assistance
- Supporting children or others
- In school or a training program
- Participating in an inpatient treatment program
- Or have another good reasons for not being able to pay.

FILE SUPERVISION FEE WAIVER

- To file a motion to reduce or waive supervision fees, you need to fill out a petition, and submit it at the Criminal Motions Unit on the second floor **(Room 206) of the Criminal Justice Center at 1301 Filbert Street.**
- The Motions Unit will charge you **\$12.50** for each petition. You can ask to have this fee waived by requesting to file **"In Forma Pauperis."**
- After you file the petition, you will have a hearing in front of a judge. You should explain why you need the fees waived and bring documentation you have to show the judge why you cannot pay.
- If CLS is helping you with your Cash Assistance case, CLS might be able to help you file your petition to reduce or waive supervision fees. Ask your CLS attorney or paralegal if they can help you.

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