

Criminal Court Costs and Fines in Philadelphia: Know Your Rights

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 get into a payment plan:

Attend a Payment Plan Conference at the Criminal Justice Center, Room 1104.

- No appointment needed – walk-in any weekday from 12:30-4:00 PM.
- Bring your criminal history form if you need it signed for welfare.
- Bring proof of benefits (SSI, SSDI, food stamps, TANF, medical) if you can.
- Keep copies of all forms!

PAYMENT PLANS

Get into a payment plan before you are sent to collections!

Once in collections, you may not be able to get a reasonable payment plan, and you will be charged 25% collection fees, and maybe interest.

Only agree to a monthly payment plan you can afford. You can get into a low payment plan if you are on public benefits or have little income. Do not agree to an amount you cannot afford.

If you have no income, the court can stop your payments for 90 days. After 90 days, if you still have no income, you can have your \$0/month payment plan extended for another 90 days.

SUPERVISION FEES MAY BE WAIVED

You may be eligible if you are:

- Unemployed
- 62 years old or older with no income
- Unable to work due to a disability
- Getting public assistance
- Responsible for supporting dependents
- In school/enrolled in a vocational training program
- Participating in an inpatient treatment program
- Or have other good reasons for not being able to pay.

To file a motion to reduce/waive supervision fees, go to the Criminal Motions Unit on the second floor (Room 206) of the Criminal Justice Center at 1301 Filbert St.



COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES
OF PHILADELPHIA

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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

To file a bail petition:

- Go to the 3rd floor of the Criminal Justice Center at 1301 Filbert Street and tell the court staff that you want to file a bail petition.
- The court staff will allow you to use the computers there and will help you fill out and print your petition(s) if you need assistance.
- You can also file bail petitions online at www.courts.phila.gov/mtvr.

REDUCE OR ELIMINATE BAIL JUDGEMENTS

If you missed a court date, you may owe bail.

BAIL JUDGMENTS ENTERED BEFORE MARCH 4, 2010 WILL NO LONGER BE COLLECTED BY THE COURT.

If you owe a bail judgment from after March 2010, you may be able to get the amount reduced or vacated.

You can get bail judgments reduced if you showed up to court or were picked up within six months of your missed court date. The court will have proof of this.

You can get the bail judgments vacated if:

- You were locked up at the time you missed court. Call the Philadelphia prison at [215-685-8394](tel:215-685-8394) to ask for proof.
- You were in the hospital.
- You had another good reason for missing court (e.g. a medical condition that made it hard to keep track of court dates, a living situation that made it hard to get mail, etc.)

You can still file a petition even if none of the above reasons apply to you. If the court is missing your file or important documents, they may still reduce or vacate your judgment.

After you file your petition(s), the court will issue an order with its decision. If you disagree, you have the right to a hearing, but you must request it within 30 days. If you still disagree with the court's decision after the hearing, you can file a second appeal within 30 days.

Warning: If you have an open bench warrant, you may be arrested on it when you go to the Criminal Justice Center or to a bail hearing. To check if you have an open bench warrant, call 215-683-3723. If you have an open bench warrant, seek legal advice because you can be locked up for several days.

