

Can someone with a criminal record get General Assistance?

Yes, as long as they:

1. *Have paid off their criminal fines and costs or are up-to-date with a payment plan.*
2. *Are not violating probation or parole*
3. *Have no warrant out for their arrest.*
4. *Do not have 3 or more convictions from violations of the private welfare code.*
5. *Satisfy the other requirements of General Assistance*

1. Up-to-date Court Fees, Fines, and Payment Plans

How to find out if you are up to date on court fines and fees?

You can learn if/what you owe by going to the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice, 1301 Filbert Street (Basement) for a print-out, called a Participant Accounting Report. Or checking online at: <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/ePay/ParticipantNameSearch.aspx?ParticipantType=Person>. You can also call the Office of Court Compliance at **215-683-7999** with questions about fees, fines, and plans.

If I am not up to date, how can I pay in full or set up a payment plan?

In Person:

FJD Compliance Officers can meet with individuals in Room B-04 at the Justice Stout Center (M-F; 9:30-4:30pm) defendants to accept payment in full or establish a payment plan.

Compliance Officers also hold conferences in Room 378 City Hall (M-F; 10:00-4:00pm) when individuals seek reduction of their monthly payment due to a change in financial circumstances.

By Mail:

You can send your payment by mail to the following address below. Checks and Money Orders, Payable to "First Judicial District of PA"). **Do not mail cash**

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Office of Court Compliance
City Hall, Room 370
Philadelphia, Pa 19107

In Person:

You can make you payments in person on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at either of the below locations. Cash, Credit/Debit Card, Checks and Money Orders Payable to "First Judicial District of PA.

Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice,
1301 Filbert Street (Basement),
Phila., PA 19107;

Accounting Unit,
1401 Arch Street,
Phila., PA 19102.

Payments in connection with cases that have been referred to a private collection agency can be made by contacting:

Credit Management Company
PO Box 16346
Pittsburgh, PA 15242-0346
1-866-368-1563

tkohan@creditmanagementcompany.com

(Adapted from the First Judicial Court's Office of Court Compliance and Community Legal Services)

2. Not in Violation of Probation or Parole

3. No Active Warrant for Arrest

How can I find out if I have an active warrant or am in violation of my probation or parole?

- **The Defender Association of Philadelphia** can help determine if you have any outstanding warrants or are in violation of county and state probation and parole. They can also determine if outstanding warrants violations can be resolved.
- If you think you may be in violation or have an outstanding warrant, contact Val White at the Defender Association at **267-765-6837** to set up an appointment.

4. No Convictions Stemming from Violations of the Public Welfare Code

An applicant or recipient who has been convicted of violating section the Public Welfare Code is **ineligible for cash assistance as follows:**

1. For **6 months** from the date of first conviction.
2. For **12 months** from the date of second conviction.
3. **Permanently** from the date of a third conviction.

Violations include but are not limited to: securing or attempting to secure GA, TANF, MA or Federal Food Stamps by misrepresentation, impersonation, or willfully failing to disclose information.

Please note: Cash assistance payments will not be made to an individual for 10 years from the date of conviction, in a Federal or State court, of fraudulent misrepresentation of residence to receive TANF, GA, MA, Food Stamps or SSI in two or more states.

(adapted from the Pennsylvania Code)

5. Meet Other Requirements for GA

GA is available to people who fit into one of the following six categories:

1. Have a temporary or permanent disability.
2. Are a victim/survivor of domestic violence who is not eligible for TANF cash assistance.
3. In a drug or alcohol treatment program that prevents them from working.
4. Are a child who is not living with a relative
5. Are caring for a person with a disability or a child under age 13 who is not related to them.
6. Are between the ages of 18 and 21 and a full- time secondary school student who expects to graduate before age 21 (and who does not qualify for TANF).

GA Eligibility Conditions

- Can't be a full-time college student (unless got TANF in last 5 years)
- Must be a PA resident
- Immigrants are potentially eligible if they have a status that allows them to live in the U.S.

Income or Asset Limits

- In addition to fitting into one of the categories above, individuals must generally have less than \$205 in monthly income.
- In Philadelphia, Allegheny, and many other counties, \$205 a month is the income limit. Other counties have somewhat different monthly income limits. See [here](#) for the list. The "Family Size Allowance" is both the GA grant amount in that county, and the income limit in that county.
- In addition, individuals must have less than \$250 in countable assets (or \$1,000 if there is more than one person in the GA budget group). Your house and one car do not count as assets.