



Have You Ever Been Arrested? Posted Bail?

You May Owe Money to the Courts and Not Know It.

DEAL WITH IT, DO NOT WAIT!

More than 1 in 5 Philadelphians owes money to the court. Many have no idea they owe the courts money. Some are getting notices about owing court costs. Many people are not getting notices if they are being sent to old addresses. **Even if you don't get a notice, you might still owe money to the court.** You might owe money to the court even though you were not convicted in your case, if you missed a court date while out on bail. If you don't deal with what you owe now, it could be harder to deal with them in the future, and bad things may happen if your case goes to collections. ***Deal with your criminal court costs before they go to collections!***

BAD THINGS COULD HAPPEN IF YOU AREN'T CURRENT ON A PAYMENT PLAN:

- After your debt is sent to collections, additional collection fees will be added to your debt which will make it harder to pay off.
- If you are applying for or getting public benefits, your benefits may be stopped if you are not in compliance with a payment plan for your costs. ***Come to Community Legal Services or Philadelphia Legal Assistance for help if your benefits are stopped.***
- If you are still on probation or parole for any criminal case, it may be a violation if you are not in compliance with a payment plan for your costs.
- If your case goes to collections, a law firm may put a lien on your house and put it up for Sheriff's Sale.
- Your wages might be garnished.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- ***Get on a payment plan you can afford before your case goes to collections.***
- To find out what you owe, call 215-683-1482 or go to the **Payment Center in the basement of the Criminal Justice Center (CJC)**, 1301 Filbert Street. You can also look online at <http://www.courts.phila.gov/collections>.
- **To get a lower monthly payment amount than \$35/mo, you have to request a payment plan conference.** Explain what you can afford. Bring a first payment.
- If you disagree with the amount of money that you are being told you owe, or you don't understand why you owe this amount of money, you should also request a payment plan conference.
- **IMPORTANT: Do not agree to a payment plan you can't afford!**

IF YOU OWE A BAIL JUDGMENT

- You may be able to get it reduced or vacated in a bail hearing. File a Petition to Vacate a Bail Judgment, available at the Motions Counter at the CJC. Call **215-683-3710** for help with filing it.



- Ask to see all your court files at the hearing.

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IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENT IN A PAYMENT PLAN:

- Your benefits may stop or be denied
- Your debt will only get bigger
- You may end up in violation of your parole or probation
- You risk your wages being garnished and/or a lien on your home and even a Sheriff's Sale.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Find out what you owe right away!
- Get on a payment plan you can afford BEFORE your case goes to collections!
- ***Request a payment plan conference (see reverse for instructions).***
- ***Request a bail hearing to try to get your bail reduced or vacated (see reverse for instructions).***
- Community Legal Services or Philadelphia Legal Assistance may be able to help if your benefits are denied or stopped because of court costs, or if you face Sheriff's Sale.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not agree to a payment plan you can't afford!

Community Legal Services is located at **1424 Chestnut St., 215-981-3700**, where walk-in intake hours are weekdays between 9-12; and **3638 N. Broad St.** (intersection of Broad & Erie), **215-227-2400**, where walk-in intake is MWF 9-12. *No appointment is needed.*

Philadelphia Legal Assistance is located at **42 S. 15th St. Suite 500.**



COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES
OF PHILADELPHIA

Call 215-981-3800 for information on intake.