

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CRIMINAL ASSESSMENTS

### *What are the fines, fees and costs I might be ordered to pay?*

You will be ordered to pay assessments at sentencing which may include:

Monthly Probation Court Costs	Crime Victim Rights Fees
State Minimum Costs	Restitution
Fines	Court appointed defense costs
Drug Court Fees	(including attorney, transcripts, interpreters)

### *When do I have to start paying what I was ordered?*

Fines, fees or costs imposed at sentencing are immediately due and payable at the time of sentencing. You should immediately report to Judicial Aide on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Court building to pay. Bring a copy of the court order.

If you are unable to pay immediately and the judge grants you the opportunity to pay over time, you are to report to Judicial Aide to provide an updated financial statement and enter into a payment plan. Judicial Aide will begin sending reminders approximately 30 days from the day of sentencing. You are to pay every 30 days from sentencing until you pay in full. Failure to pay in full within 56 days of sentencing will result in a 20% statutory late fee being added to your balance. Failure to pay is considered a violation of your probation and may result in a bench warrant for you to show cause to the judge why probation should not be revoked or modified. All fines, fees and costs should be paid *before* the conclusion of probation.

### *What documentation should I bring to enter into a payment plan?*

Provide as much information as possible, such as:

- Prior year Federal tax return, schedules and W-2 form
- Three current paycheck stubs
- Statement of Social Security (if applicable)
- Statement of government assistance
- ADC, DHS, Workman's Compensation, Unemployment Compensation, disability insurance), if applicable.
- Copy of divorce decree (if applicable)
- Medical insurance information
- Copy of driver's license or other ID

### *Where and how can I make a payment to the Court?*

**Payments can be made:** ▪ (1) In person or by mail: Judicial Aide, 40 North Main, 5th Floor, Mount Clemens, MI 48043 or Circuit Court Probation Cashier, 32 Market Street, Mount Clemens, MI 48043 ▪ Tender types accepted: cash, check, money order and credit card ▪ Checks and money orders payable to: **Macomb County**. (2) In person or by phone with credit card: (888) 604-7888, pay location code 1442 ▪ (3) With a credit card online: [www.govpaynow.com](http://www.govpaynow.com), pay location code 1442. Your Circuit Court case number is required for every payment to ensure that your case gets properly credited. You can find this on your sentencing disposition or probation documentation.

### *Are there fees to pay with a credit card?*

Yes, our vendor does charge a convenience fee which does not get paid to the County and it is not applied towards the balance of your case: In person or online: 3.5% of the payment amount. By phone: 5% of the payment amount

### *Why am I being charged a late fee?*

Michigan law, MCL 600.4803, imposes a 20% late fee if you do not pay in full within 56 days from the date of sentencing. The late fee will be added to your account balance. If you are unable to pay the account balance in full, you are required to make monthly payments. Payment plans must be made in person at Judicial Aide.

*Can I get the late fee waived?*

Sometimes the Court will waive the late fee if the balance is being paid. The Court is the **only** authority to make this decision. Your payment history will be reviewed before a decision is made to waive the late fee.

*Where can I get a balance of what I owe?*

You can visit <http://www.macombcountymi.gov/circuitcourt> and go to CASE LOOK-UP to review your case information and to calculate your own balance. You will need your Circuit Court case number. When you make a payment in person, your balance is in the upper right hand corner of the receipt.

*If I'm on probation for 18 months, can I pay my Court Ordered costs at the end of my probation?*

No, you are ordered to either pay your costs in full at the time of your sentencing or to pay monthly and enter into a payment agreement with Judicial Aide. You are not allowed to defer making payments until the end of your probation.

If you fail to make payments, collection efforts will be started which may include a wage assignment, state income tax refund or any other remedy allowed by law. You may receive a Petition and Order to Show Cause to appear before a Judge to show cause why you have not complied with the order of the Court to pay. Failure to appear at the show cause may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and a judgment against you for the balance owed.

*I work and I'd like my payments to come from my pay check, what do I have to do?*

You can enter into a voluntary wage assignment. Judicial Aide needs the name, address/telephone number of your employer and your signature. The form is available in Judicial Aide. This can be mailed or completed in person.

*What does joint and several mean?*

If two or more defendants have joint and several liability, then they are each liable up to the full amount of the relevant obligation. If one party refuses to pay, dies, disappears or is declared bankrupt, the other remains liable for the full amount. Each person is not responsible for 50% of the debt. Both are separately obligated to pay the entire debt.

*I changed my address with Probation, why didn't I receive a notice from Judicial Aide?*

It is your responsibility to change your address with the Court through Judicial Aide, as well as with Probation.

*Are monthly probation fees and supervision fees the same?*

No, your monthly probation fees are a County assessment and payable at Judicial Aide or the probation cashier. State Supervision fees are payable as noted below.

*Can I pay my state supervision fee at the probation cashier or Judicial Aide office?*

**NO, this is a STATE FEE.** This payment must be paid by money order and sent to: Michigan DOC Fee Payment Processing PO Box 674178 Detroit, MI 48268-4128

You must include your printed name and your 6-digit Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) number on your money order. **Payable to: State of Michigan.**

*Who do I ask if I have questions about my State Supervision Fees?*

These questions may be answered by your probation officer or you can contact the State directly at: (877) 903-7225 or (517) 373-3833. Visit their website: <http://www.michigan.feeservice.com>