



Phase III: Court Costs: The Hidden Prison

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Commissioned by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund



Introduction

Commissioned by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, this is the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center's third report in a series of exploratory research on the impact of court fees. The first publication was a review of the literature as well as a review of the policies and types of data publicly available to better understand the impact of court costs fees on youth in the Fourth Judicial Circuit (Clay, Duval and Nassau counties).

The review of the literature highlighted in the first publication of the series, *Assessing the Impact of Court Costs and Fees on Juvenile and Families*, revealed that court fees have been shown to exacerbate poverty, increase surveillance or length of time in system, and widen racial disparities. This unfairly impacts children living in poverty. They pay higher feeds because their inability to pay results in longer involvement in the system. Youth of color are overrepresented in the justice system and they are impacted the most as a result of cost associated with outstanding fees or inability to pay.

The constitutionality of imposing fines that disproportionately affect a targeted population is questioned. Between 2017 and 2018 only 20% of Florida court fines for felonies were received, and 85% of fines were labeled as minimal collections expectations; which means the courts did not anticipate collections. Court fees are often outsourced to collection firms that can add a surcharge of up to 40% as well as additional interest rates. This makes it increasingly difficult to pay. Access to court reports showed the amount collected in Juvenile Court fees was less than 10%.

The second publication, *From the Voices of Girls and Stakeholders: The Impact of Court Cost*, was a summary of the voices of girls and stakeholders impacted by court fees. During interviews with young women, we learned that jail fees are also imposed in addition to court fees. These include fees for accessing services while in jail, such as doctor and nurse visits over the counter medications. The Policy Center researchers found that for most women fees are not explained to them and they cannot readily access the total amount of fees owed. The women expressed that outstanding court fees restrict their ability to gain employment, takes away driving privileges and further traps them into poverty.

This report builds on the first two publications. It shows the total amount of fees owed for sample of young adults ages 16-24 released from the John E. Goode Duval County jail and arrested in the Fourth Judicial Circuit over a six month period as well as prevalence of unpaid court fees that are in collections. It is the first publication to: conduct a deeper analyses of the local disparities by gender and type of fees, include insights of stakeholders, and introduce a cost benefit argument that can prompt recommendations.

The high level of court fee balances, the added impact of fees in collections creates a debtor's prison. As one young woman explains:

"From personal experience, while going through the court system. I was never made aware that every time I went in front of a judge that I was getting hit with fees. In a way, it's like these fees were hidden until sentencing.

Going to court and then being sentenced after three years of fighting my case was extremely stressful and scary but hearing that the court required me to pay fees after three years of going back and forth to court was horrifying. I was being sent out to a community that I no longer

knew or understood and had to figure out a way to pay my fines or get my probation violated. When I had six felonies on my record and it was nearly impossible for me to get a job. Eventually, I settled for less and got a job where I was sexually harassed and put back in situations that could have led to further trauma and exploitation.

I got lucky and a community leader decided to pay for my fines but if that didn't happen, I could've been placed back in jail.

This report is so important for stakeholders, system leaders, policymakers, etc. to see because court fees are a hidden until the conclusion of a case. At the end of the case, everyone is just ready to move on and don't realize the negative impacts these costs will continue to carry for the individuals that has already served their time. In a way, this is further punishing them for the time they already completed. This is a vicious cycle that lands a lot of people back into the system and when landing in front of the judge, the court is surprised by the return of the individual in front of them without realizing that the court never fully freed them in the first place.”

The Court Costs Series complements and is aligned with the research focus of the Policy Center. Our study on the impact of court fees provides context to other research studies completed by the Policy Center- *Status of Girls Educational Attainment, Status of Girls Well-Being, Girls in Secure Detention, and Breaking the cycle: Policies and Practices Creating Barriers that Trap Young Women into Poverty.*

The research team monitors the experiences of system-involved girls by listening and focusing attention through various ways: direct contact with girls who are navigating systems and experiencing barriers, collecting information from staff working with girls, participating in community meetings, reviewing policies, statutes, talking with experts in the field, and monitoring the data trends. Based on this, we have learned of the archaic, unfair, and restrictive policies/practices that keep young women and their children trapped in an intergenerational cycle of poverty.

The court costs research garnered the attention of the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia. They have been working with a few jurisdictions to eliminate juvenile court fees. The Juvenile Law Center is a non-profit, public interest law firm that fights for children who come into contact with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Since 1975, the center has worked through litigation, advocacy, amicus briefs, policy reform, public education, training, consulting, and strategic communications. The center provides technical assistance on cases and to states reforming child welfare policies all over the country. The Juvenile Law Center’s “Debtors’ Prison for Kids?” initiative aims to end the unfair practice of imposing juvenile fines and fees by researching practices in all 50 states, reporting on their impact, and providing policy recommendations and resources. In addition, they work to solve issues such as access to counsel, healthcare, homelessness, extended foster care, juvenile life without parole, and education.

Process/Methodology

Quantitative Data for Young Adults Impacted by Court Fees: For this phase we extracted data from the Duval County Office of the Clerks and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) on young adults who have been released from the John E. Goode pre-trial Detention Center. This data includes the total fees owed for men and women ages 16 to 24; who were released from January 2019 to June 2019 and the fees owed for men and women who were arrested from July 2019 to December 2019.

The data sources used include the arrest and releases data provided through the JSO. These are known as the "In Sheet", which contains individuals arrested during the previous six months; data on the "In Sheet" contains an individual's jail number, JSO ID number, race, gender, age, name, charge type, primary charge and the arresting agency. The "Out Sheet" contains individuals released from jail since 2003. The "Out Sheet" contains data on the facility the individual was released, jail number, race, gender, age, date of birth, name, releasing officer, release description and the date and time of release.

From the "In Sheet", the research team pulled data from July 2019 to December 2019. Two days, the 15th and the last day of each month were selected to generate a random list of arrests. From the "Out Sheet" data was pulled from January 2019 to June 2019 in the same manner to generate random list of releases. The data was then moved to excel spreadsheets and a research sample was created of the individuals that were ages 16 to 24 and released from the John E. Goode detention facility ("Out Sheet"). Researchers noted that a majority of the population was male, to make the gender ratio comparable, an oversampling strategy for women further filtered to include women that were arrested/released on the 15th and the last day of the month. The male sample only included men that were arrested on the last day of the month. This resulted in a sample of 114 individuals that were arrested and 127 individuals that were released.

Using the names identified, the research team extracted the total court fees for each person using the CORE (Clerk Online Resource e-Portal.) For more detailed information of process, please see Appendix. The JSO provided the research team with data on the total count of individuals that were released from jail from January 2019 to June 2019.

Findings: Court Fees Among 16-24 year old's

In a six month period (January –June 2019), there were 17,034 people released from the John E. Goode Pre-trial Detention Center (See table 1 below). Women comprised approximately 27% of releases. The race/ ethnicity breakdown for the men released from jail showed that 55% of the men were Black, 43% were White and 2% were identified as Other. There were also differences for women where 46% were Black, 52% were White and 2% were identified as Other. It is estimated that 19% of total releases were aged 24 or younger¹.

Table 1: Releases by Month by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (all ages)*							
	Men			Women			Total
	Black	White	Other	Black	White	Other	
January	1156	874	24	357	413	8	2832
February	1116	846	24	349	369	11	2715
March	1211	886	42	351	409	15	2914
April	1135	876	43	360	416	15	2845
May	1159	931	46	381	407	10	2934
June	1093	889	34	350	413	15	2794
TOTALS	6870	5302	213	2148	2427	74	17,034

Jacksonville Sherriff's Office. Department of Corrections. Inmate Releases Comparison YTD.

*Weekend inmates, expunged inmates, inmates released, invalid jail number and juvenile inmates admitted in error are not included where possible.

Random Sample

Releases Jan- June 2019: Our random sample consisted of 127 individuals (61 women and 66 men) that were released from jail. The race ethnicity breakdown for this group shows that for both male and female, the majority of individuals' ages 18-24 are Black. In our sample, Black women accounted for 64% of the sample of women and Black men accounted for 76% of the sample of men.

New arrests July- December 2019: The random sample of individuals that were arrested consist of 114 (47 women and 67 men) youth and young adults ages 16 to 24. The race/ethnicity makeup of the group that was arrested is similar in that the majority of the individuals are Black; 60% of the women and 60% of the men were Black. Additionally, both samples were diverse by age (see Table 2 below).

¹ Authors analysis of the data provided

Table 2: Fees in Collections by Age and Gender

Age	Release		Arrest	
	Female (N=61)	Male (N=66)	Female N=47	Male N=67
16	0%	0%	0%	1%
17	0%	0%	0%	3%
18	7%	9%	13%	7%
19	15%	12%	15%	12%
20	10%	9%	19%	10%
21	13%	17%	17%	13%
22	20%	18%	11%	21%
23	16%	14%	4%	16%
24	20%	21%	21%	15%

Court Fees Imposed

Using the pay sheet information pulled from CORE, researchers extracted the individual record of court fees for everyone in the sample, including all fees/charges an individual had ever received, which charges had been paid, and charges that were still owed.

CORE also keeps record of which collection agency a charge has been turned over to and whether it has been recalled². It is important to note that an individual’s court fees can go through several different collection agencies. For example, one individual’s balance for a single incident was sent to collections but shown to be recalled on the docket. For this same individual, a separate incident, the court fees balance were sent to a different collections agency. According to the clerk’s office, one must contact either the misdemeanor or felony departments to understand which collection agency fees have been assigned (see Appendix).

Court related fees ranged from \$50 (public defender fee) to \$921 (Felony A Default). Additionally, there were miscellaneous fees that ranged from \$.88 to \$40; they include: payment plan fee, ePay fee, D6 fee, late fee, and copy fee. The majority of the charges had a predetermined fee, such as a public defender fee of \$50 or a criminal misdemeanor fee of \$303. There were fees/charges that had varying costs such as for Felony A Default, fees in this category ranged from \$473 to \$921. The majority of the fees were related to moving violations/Criminal traffic (non-speeding). The fees across moving violations also varied and ranged from \$129 to \$558.

Types of Fees by Gender and Race/Ethnicity

There were differences by gender and race ethnicity in the types of primary charges individuals who were arrested received. The majority of the primary charges for women were domestic violence, a traffic violation or DUI, violation of probation, and theft/burglary. For men, the majority of the primary

² Recalled: The contract with the collection agency ends so the fees are turned over to the clerk’s office. Fees are returned to the clerk’s office without the 40% increased that is added by the collection agency.

charges were drug related, weapons (concealing a firearm), eluding a law enforcement officer or Fugitive (see Tables 3 and 4 for differences by race within gender).

Table 3: Primary Charges for Women Arrested by Race/Ethnicity				
	Black N=28	White N=16	Other N=3	Total N=47
Domestic Violence	14%	25%	33%	19%
Traffic violation and DUI	14%	25%	0%	17%
Violation of Probation	18%	13%	0%	15%
Theft/Burglary	14%	0%	33%	11%
Drug Related	0%	19%	33%	9%
Child Neglect	14%	0%	0%	9%
Other*	7%	13%	0%	9%
Resisting Officer	7%	0%	0%	4%
Assault/ Battery	4%	0%	0%	2%
Weapons	4%	0%	0%	2%
Fugitive/ Elude Law Enforcement	0%	6%	0%	2%
Failure to Appear	4%	0%	0%	2%

Table 4: Primary charges for Males Arrested by Race/Ethnicity				
	Black N=40	White N=25	Other N=2	Total N=67
Weapons	18%	4%	100%	15%
Drug Related	18%	8%	0%	13%
Fugitive/ Elude Law Enforcement	10%	16%	0%	12%
Traffic DUI	8%	16%	0%	10%
Other*	5%	16%	0%	9%
Violation of Probation	10%	8%	0%	9%
Domestic Violence	8%	8%	0%	7%
Theft/Burglary	5%	12%	0%	7%
Failure to Appear	10%	0%	0%	6%
Resisting Officer	3%	8%	0%	4%
Assault/ Battery	3%	4%	0%	3%
Child Neglect	3%	0%	0%	1%

*Other: Includes criminal mischief, failure to comply with sexual offender requirements, giving false information to a Law Enforcement Officer, Misuse of 911, writ of attachment, disorderly intoxication.

The average fees for men and women were similar (\$433 for women and \$431 for men). The average court fees owed by race/ethnicity within gender differed where White women on average owed the most fees (\$571) followed by Black women (\$369), and women who were identified as Other (\$287); among men, Black men on average owed the most fees (\$429) followed by White men (\$404) and men identified as Other (\$25). There were differences by gender in the average amount of fees based on the primary charge (see Table 5).

Women owed significantly more for violations of probation and for assault/battery than men.

Specifically, women owed significantly more for violations of probation and for assault/battery than men. While the cause of this is unknown, this suggests that women come back to the system for violation of probation and pay for it and greater levels.

Table 5: Average fees owed by Primary Charge and by Gender for Individuals that were Arrested		
Types of Charges	Women	Men
Violation of Probation	\$ 1,372	\$ 712
Domestic Violence	\$ 269	\$ 438
Assault/ Battery	\$1,069	\$725
Drug Related	\$133	\$531
Traffic Violation/DUI	\$ 438	\$ 922
Child Neglect	\$ 38	\$ 50
Weapons	\$ 403	\$ 73
Fugitive/ Elude Law Enforcement	\$	\$31
Resisting an Officer	\$ 262	\$253
Other*	\$ 203	\$198
Theft/Burglary	\$ 275	\$131
Failure to Appear	\$367	\$ 1,441

*Other: includes criminal mischief, failure to comply with sexual offender requirements, giving false information to a Law Enforcement Officer, Misuse of 911, writ of attachment, disorderly intoxication.

Collections

Releases: More than half of people in our sample had fees in Collections.

A total of \$168,822 fees were charged for the group that were released between January and June 2019. For individuals with felonies court cost are due 90 days after a period of incarceration. In the case of individuals on probation, failure to pay court fees on the date specified by a Judge can

85% of women have court fees with 51% of them in collections; 86% of men owed court fee with 56% of them in collections.

result in a violation of probation and a warrant can be issued for arrest. For individuals that were released in our sample, less than 31% of court fees imposed had been paid in full or partially, **54% of the individuals released have fees in collections.** From this sample fees owed by men and women were comparable: 85% of women have court fees with 51% of them in collections; 86% of men owed court fee with 56% of them in collections. In our sample 14% of the individuals released did not have court fees. In some cases, the charges were dropped, fees waived, or the case was closed. Analyses showed that the older a person was the more likely they owed court fees. However, there were differences within gender for fees in collections, for women; 67% of 24-year old's, 75% of 21 year old's and 83% of 20 year old's had fees in collections. For men; 67% of 20-year old's and 93% of 24 year old's had fees in collections.

Arrests

Of the sample that was arrested July 2019 to December 2019, we found they had fewer accumulated court fees. A total of \$49,188 in court cost fees were imposed with 20% paid in full or partially to date. Approximately 6% of the individuals arrested had fees in collections within this timeframe. This could be the result of limited system involvement, or the result of individuals still awaiting a court hearing where charges are defined, and fees imposed, or not enough time had passed for fees to be sent to collections. The differences in collection status also exist between the individuals who were arrested and released, 17% of the arrest population had multiple offenses compared to 69% of those who were released from jail. These findings suggest that spending time in jail increases the likelihood of court fees imposed, but also that an arrest amounts to court fees-- average of \$432, and some will end up in collections as well.

From our previous study, stakeholders noted that data pulled by the research team will show Black youth as accruing significantly larger court fee balances than White youth, with more fees going unpaid and marginalized socioeconomic groups less able to pay. Of the young adults that had fees in collections there was a disparate overrepresentation for both Black men and women (see Table 6 below).

Table 6: Young Adults Released with Fees in Collections by Gender and by Race/Ethnicity			
Women		Men	
Black N=39	56%	Black N=50	58%
White N=22	41%	White N=16	50%
Other N=0	0%	Other N=0	0%

Noteworthy Findings

Homelessness: Approximately 7% of the 18 to 24 sample population that was released from jail were homeless or lived in a shelter. Homelessness differed by gender where 44% of females and 56% of males had no address or lived in shelters. The majority (78%) of homeless individuals had court fees in collection, this represented 75% of women and 80% of men. Furthermore, of the individuals that were homeless 78% had multiple charges.

Local collections firms: The current collection agencies used by the County Clerk's Office are Linebarger (an attorney's office) and Penn Credit (a third-party collection agency). There is a portal on their website to pay fees (cost to process fee³). It is unclear the level of communication of payment status to affected individuals that is received by the collections agency. Linebarger collects fees for felonies and misdemeanors, Penn Credit collects fees for misdemeanors.

Reflections: The impact of having fees in collections

Having fees in collections deepens the inequities that communities and individuals face. For individuals who have the means to pay their court fees, they do not bear the brunt of the collateral consequences. When one lives in poverty and becomes involved in the justice system, court fees further trap them in poverty and deeper into the court system. For the average person having debt in collections can limit the types of loans one can be given. However, with justice system involvement one can be completely barred from obtaining any loans or credit. Fees in collections additionally prevents one from obtaining employment, as some employers use credit reports in the hiring process. If one does not have the financial means they are either jailed (if on probation) or prevented from fully participating in society (barred from employment, housing, securing driver's license).

³ Penn Credit representative states that processing fees depends on the type of account.

Cost Benefit Analyses

Disparate Impact of Court Fees by Gender and Race

	White Male	Black Male	White Female	Black Female
Average Fees (\$)	\$404	\$429	\$571	\$369
Likely in collections (%)	50%	58%	41%	56%
40% collections fee imposed (fee X 40%)	\$162	\$172	\$228	\$148
New total owed \$*	\$566	\$601	\$799	\$517

*New total does not include processing fees, payment plan fees, etc.

YEARLY FORECASTING

Releases Ages 18-24 in collections	White Males	Black Males	White Females	Black Females	Total
Projected Yearly Number	759	2278	993	1810	5840
Projected % with UNPAID FEES	50%= 380	58%= 1321	41%= 407	56%= 1013	3,121

UNPAID COURT FEES



CREDIT SCORE



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES



POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT

**Of minimum 3,121 young 18-24 year olds in Duval County PER YEAR
(75% of which are for Black males and females)**

Increases



Suspension of license



Re-arrest



Inability to vote in Florida

Implications for Blueprint/Advocacy

The Policy Center's strategy will be to partner with the Juvenile Law Center and The Children's Campaign to develop and introduce legislation to address the inequities of court fees/fines. Using our reform framework, we will focus on raising awareness about the impact of court fees as evidenced in this research series; identify and educate key policy makers to solicit support in the introduction of legislation using the experience of the Juvenile Law Center policy expertise to build the propose bill drafts.

The Policy Center will partner with The Children's Campaign and the Juvenile Law Center and include ending the unfair practice of imposing juvenile fines and fees as part of our advocacy/public policy platform. This will include reviewing alternatives and policies and practices that have been implemented in other states and jurisdictions. For example: California's legislation that ends almost all administrative costs, as well as other fines and fees; Philadelphia ending the practice of charging families child support for the cost of a child's incarceration; Washington and Utah's legislation to eliminate some juvenile justice fines and fees, as did Utah.

Data recommendation for Department of Juvenile Justice

The Policy Center recommends DJJ systematically collect/document the number (and percent) of youth who incur court fees and other juvenile justice related costs. The data should be available to analyze by gender and race/ethnicity, county, age, point in juvenile justice system, and total amounts. This will allow for monitoring of estimated costs per youth at each point along the system and who is most impacted.

Relevant Policies

Federal level: Eliminating Debtor's Prison for Kids (H.R. 2300)

The Eliminating Debtor's Prison for Kids Act of 2019 (H.R. 2300) would provide youth federal grant incentives for states that end juvenile justice costs, fines, and fees. The Act aims to accelerate nationwide reform so that young people and their families are no longer harmed by these fees, and the grants would help provide evidence-based and trauma-informed mental health services to at-risk youth. California, Nevada, and Washington have already passed legislation eliminating most juvenile court and diversion fees. Local reforms in Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin have also ended the practice of billing families for juvenile detention and other court fees, and more than 30 counties in California have cleared juvenile justice debt.

Local State level: S.B. 1328: Fines and Fees (see also: H.B. 903)

A Florida bill in Senate Appropriations aimed to reduce driver's license suspensions caused by unpaid fees. S.B. 1328 would have ended the option for a monthly processing fee associated with certain payment plans and authorize certain persons to pay an existing administrative charge in five equal monthly payments. The bill would have also expanded the payment methods available.

Originally, the bill proposed ending driver's license suspensions for overdue fines or fees payments but was modified to instead require that payment plan enrollment information must be given before revoking a person's license. If a required payment is missed, the clerk must provide a 30-day grace period before revoking the person's license. If the individual is incarcerated, the clerk cannot refer the case to collections or suspend the person's driver's license. The bills both died in appropriations, having been indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration on 3/14/20.

Appendix

A note about the Process to Secure Data:

To have an understanding of the total fees imposed on youth during pre-trial we aimed to request that amount. First, we reached out to the individual listed on the Fourth Judicial Circuit Courts of Florida website as the point person to submit in writing public records request. We later learned that this was not the correct individual that provides this data. We then contacted the office of the clerks and was told that the data we were requesting would not be available in an aggregate form. The office of the county clerk also noted that researchers would need the names and jail numbers of individuals to pull the requested data. The research team then met with staff members that work with women in pre-trial groups.

From this meeting the research team discovered the “In Sheet”, which contains individuals arrested during the previous six months; data on the “In Sheet” contains an individual’s Jail number, JSO ID number, race, gender, age, name, charge type, primary charge and the arresting agency. The research team also found the “Out Sheet” which contains individuals released from jail since 2003. The “Out Sheet” contains data on the facility the individual was released, jail number, race, gender, age, date of birth, name, releasing officer, release description and the date and time of release. From the “In Sheet”, the research team pulled data from July 2019 to December 2019 the research team chose to use data from two days, the 15th and the last day of the month. From the “Out Sheet” data was pulled from January 2019 to June 2019 in the same manner. Once in excel the research team filtered both sheets to only contain individuals that were ages 16 to 24 and released from the John E. Goode detention facility (“Out Sheet”). Researchers noted that a majority of the population was male, to make the ratio comparable data was further filtered to include women that were arrested/release on the 15th and the last day of the month and men that were arrested on the last day of the month only. This resulted in a sample of 114 individuals that were arrested and 127 individuals that were released.

The Research team then submitted the list of names and jail numbers to the clerk’s office. We were then informed that the request would be costly. The clerk’s office then directed the research team to CORE (Clerk Online Resource e-Portal) and provided instructions on how to use this portal to search individuals and their court fees. The clerk’s office provided additional pay sheets for the individuals who were arrested. The research team then pulled the total court fees for all individuals who were on the compiled list. Jacksonville Sherriff’s Office provided the research team with data on the total count of individuals released from jail from January 2019 to June 2019.

“In Sheet”: A record that is published to the public that contains individuals that were arrested within the last six months of the date accessed. The “In Sheet” contains a person’s jail number, JSO ID, race, sex, age, name, the type of charge (e.g. felony or misdemeanor), the primary charge, and the arresting agency.

[http://inmatesearch.jaxsheriff.org/jsodocwebreports/\(S\(fzhimlqgs5lljt551bpjr222\)\)/PublicInSheetReport2.aspx](http://inmatesearch.jaxsheriff.org/jsodocwebreports/(S(fzhimlqgs5lljt551bpjr222))/PublicInSheetReport2.aspx)

“Out Sheet”: A record that is published to the public that contains individuals that were released since 2003 from Community Corrections Center, The John E. Goode Pre-trial Detention Facility, J.I. Montgomery Correctional Center, individuals not housed in a JSO facility and individuals released from home detention. The “Out Sheet” contains the facility an individual was released from, their jail number, race, sex, age, date of birth, name, releasing officer, release description (e.g. bond, time served) and the release date and time.

[http://inmatesearch.jaxsheriff.org/jsodocwebreports/\(S\(qsyx1s55helsth455eic1rvi\)\)/Report_OutSheet.aspx](http://inmatesearch.jaxsheriff.org/jsodocwebreports/(S(qsyx1s55helsth455eic1rvi))/Report_OutSheet.aspx)

Public Records Center: The portal to make a public records data request.

[https://jacksonvilleso.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(aj5qdsckzkyvsmzffypqv3\)\)/logout.aspx?sSessionID=](https://jacksonvilleso.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/(S(aj5qdsckzkyvsmzffypqv3))/logout.aspx?sSessionID=)

FAQ Court Cost

Felony

When are my court costs due?

Typically your court costs are due 90 days after the period of incarceration.

Misdemeanor

What if I can't pay my fine?

If you are on Probation and the Judge ordered you to pay your fine to the Salvation Army Probation Department, please contact your Probation Officer. If you fail to contact them about a late payment, it may result in a Violation of Probation. Also, the Court may issue a Warrant for your arrest.

If you are not on Probation, you were given a specific date to pay your fines. If you do not pay these fines by that date, your information may be forwarded to a collections agency in an effort to collect your fine. This is subject to a 40% collections rate. Payment extensions are granted in certain types of cases. Please call the Misdemeanor Department at (904) 255-2000.

What forms of payment are acceptable for a traffic citation?

Payment can be made in the form of money order, cashier's check and certified check if paying by mail. If paying in person, we also accept cash and credit cards in the form of Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Debit Cards are processed as credit. Please note there is a non-refundable 3.5% service fee on all credit card payments.

Does attending Driver Improvement School keep the citation off my driving record?

No. The citation will appear on your full driving record however, it will show that adjudication was withheld. No points will be assessed.

<http://www2.duvalclerk.com/frequently-asked-questions/>