



# Understanding Court Fines

## What is a court fine?

A court fine is a financial penalty which a judge, magistrate or Justice of the Peace has ordered you to pay in a Western Australian Court.

When you receive a court fine, it will be registered with the Fines Enforcement Registry the day after the fine or order was given to you.

## How do I pay a court fine?

You can pay the fine in full or apply for a Time to Pay Order through the following options:

- Visit [www.justice.wa.gov.au/fer](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/fer) and complete a Time to Pay Order Form.
- Email [fines@justice.wa.gov.au](mailto:fines@justice.wa.gov.au).
- Call the Fines Enforcement Registry on 1300 650 235 (from landlines) or 9235 0235 (for mobile/interstate callers) between 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

You can also attend any Magistrates Court to make a payment or apply for a Time to Pay Order. See the **Fact Sheet – Applying for a Time to Pay Order** for more details.

To avoid additional fees, pay your court fine before the due date!

## What happens if I don't pay my court fine?

28 days from the date on the notice, a Notice of Intention to Enforce will be issued if the fine remains outstanding, warning you that your driver's and/or vehicle licence may be suspended.

## Can any other action be taken against me if I don't pay my court fine?

Yes, an Enforcement Warrant may be issued.

An Enforcement Warrant may be issued when court fines or infringements remain outstanding.

Enforcement Warrants give the Sheriff authority to take further action to recover unpaid court fines and infringements.

Enforcement Warrants authorise the Sheriff to:

- wheel clamp your vehicle
- remove your vehicle registration plates
- suspend or cancel your vehicle licence
- seize and sell your personal property
- lodge memorials (caveats) on your land and/or real property (real estate)
- deduct money from your wages or bank account(s).

See the **Fact Sheet – Enforcement Warrants and Stay of Execution** for more details.

## How can I dispute a court fine?

If you want to dispute a court fine, and you were present in court on the day of the hearing, you will need to lodge an appeal with the Supreme Court.

If you want to dispute a court fine, and you were not present in court on the day of the hearing, you can request a re-hearing at the court where the matter was heard.

Contact the court where the court fine was made to discuss your options. You may want to seek legal advice.

If your licence has already been suspended and you choose to dispute the court fine, the Licence Suspension Order will automatically be cancelled once the court lists the matter for a hearing.

If you want to apply for a Time to Pay Order, see the **Fact Sheet – Applying for a Time to Pay Order** for more details.

## **Can I apply for community work?**

Court fines with an expired Notice of Intention to Enforce (Court Fine) registered at the Fines Enforcement Registry may be eligible to be converted into community work, subject to certain criteria.

## **How do I apply for community work?**

Visit [www.justice.wa.gov.au/fer](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/fer) and complete a **Request to Convert Court Fine to Community Work Form**.

Alternatively, this form can be obtained from a Magistrates Court.

You will be notified of the outcome of your request.

## **Can I apply for a Work and Development Permit?**

A Work and Development Permit is a permit enabling you to complete approved activities to reduce or even clear your outstanding court fines.

Court fines registered at the Fines Enforcement Registry may be eligible to be converted into a Work and Development Permit, subject to certain criteria.

## **How do I apply for a Work and Development Permit?**

For a list of sponsors who can apply to the Registrar on your behalf visit [www.justice.wa.gov.au/wdp](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/wdp).

You will be notified of the outcome of the request.

## **Can I apply for a Fine Expiation Order?**

A Fine Expiation Order is an order enabling you if in custody, or if you have been in custody, to reduce or even clear your outstanding court fines.

Court fines registered at the Fines Enforcement Registry may be eligible to be converted into a Fine Expiation Order, subject to certain criteria.

## **How do I apply for a Fine Expiation Order?**

Visit [www.justice.wa.gov.au/fer](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/fer) and complete an application for Fine Expiation Order.

Alternatively, this form can be obtained from a Magistrates Court.

You will be notified of the outcome of your request.

## **What happens if I ignore my outstanding court fines?**

If other enforcement action is unsuccessful, the Registrar can apply to the Magistrates Court to determine if you have means to pay, your suitability for a Work and Development Order, whether you have contravened an Order from a previous Inquiry and the appropriate action to be taken to enforce the outstanding fine(s).

The court may issue a summons or an arrest warrant for you to attend and participate in the inquiry process.

## **I also have an infringement notice – what do I do?**

See the **Fact Sheet – Understanding Infringement Notices** for more details.

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