

Ability to Pay Application

Fill out this form so the court can determine a fair payment for you.

Your Name: _____ Cause Number: _____

Court Name: _____

Your Phone: _____ Your Email Address: _____

⇒ What is my “ability to pay” and why is it important?

If the court finds that you violated the law, you may need to pay money or do community service. The court needs information from you to determine a fair payment.

⇒ How much money will I owe?

A fair payment is what you can afford depending on your circumstances:

- If **Section A** applies to you, you can ask to pay no fees and only pay the lowest fine allowed by law.
- If **Section B** applies to you, you can ask to reduce your fines and fees based on income.

Section A: I ask the court to **waive all fees allowable and impose the lowest fine allowed by law** because: (check all that apply)

Gross Income: I earn less than \$19,950 per year.

☐ **Benefits:** I receive public benefits. (check all that apply)

SSI	SSDI
SNAP	Medicaid
TANF	Other _____

☐ **Homeless:** I have been homeless at some point in the last 12 months. (you slept in a shelter, outside, or on someone’s couch)

☐ **Child:** I was under 18 on the date of this offense.

☐ **Mental Health:** I stayed at least one night in a residential mental health facility in the last six months.

Disabilities: (check all that apply)

- ☐ I have a developmental disability.
- ☐ I have a permanent disability.
- ☐ I am disabled now.

Jail or Prison: (check all that apply)

- ☐ I am currently in jail or prison.
- ☐ I will be sentenced to jail or prison for at least six months.
- ☐ I have been released from jail or prison after serving six months within the past 12 months.

☐ **Public Defender:** I was eligible for a public defender or had a lawyer paid for by the state in this case.

Section B: I ask the court to **waive or reduce my fines and fees due to financial hardship** as described in this section.

1. How many dependents live in your home? ____ Dependents + 1 for you = ____ total in home
(A dependent is a child, parent, partner, or anyone who relies on you for food, shelter, and clothing.)
2. How much money do you earn in a month (before taxes are taken out)? \$ ____/month
(This amount should not include any Social Security payments or child support you receive.)
3. Subtract from this amount any significant recurring costs you have like treatment for a disability or long-term medical problem, child support payments (do not include rent or car payments).
\$ ____/month income - \$ ____/month recurring expenses = \$ ____
4. In the chart below, find the number of dependents (plus you) in your home and find your income in the same row. This is your income compared to the federal poverty guidelines.

You + Dependents who live in home		Your Income as Percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline			
		200% FPL	250% FPL	300% FPL	350% FPL
Find the number of people in your home. Then find your monthly income on the same line.	1	\$0 - \$2,660	\$2,660.01 - \$3,325	\$3,325.01 - \$3,990	\$3,990.01 - \$4,655
	2	\$0 - \$3,606.67	\$3,606.68 - \$4,508.32	\$4,508.33 - \$5,410	\$5,410.01 - \$6,331.66
	3	\$0 - \$4,553.33	\$4,553.34 - \$5,691.67	\$5,691.68 - \$6,830	\$6,830.01 - \$7,968.36
	4	\$0 - \$5,500	\$5,500.01 - \$6,687.5	\$6,687.51 - \$8,250	\$8,250.01 - \$9,625
	For each extra person:	Add \$946.68 for each	Add \$1,183.35 for each	Add \$1,420.02 for each	Add \$1,656.66 for each
	Fees Requested	Waived	Waived	Waived	Waived
	Fines Requested	Lowest Allowed	25% of Fine	50% of Fine	75% of Fine

5. I ask to waive my fees because I am at or below ____ percent of the poverty guideline.
(see chart above)
6. I ask to reduce my fines to ____ because I am at or below ____ percent of the poverty guideline.
(see chart above)

Other Information: You can provide other information you would like the court to consider. If you need more space, attach a separate piece of paper.

Section C: Sign below

All the information I have given on this form is true to my knowledge and belief.

Print Name _____

Sign Name _____

Date _____

What now?

Give this document to the Clerk. The Judge will review all your information and tell you how much money you owe. Be sure your contact information is current.