

ALTERNATIVES TO PAYMENT OF FINES AND COURT COSTS

A defendant who is convicted of a **CRIMINAL** offense, punishable by fine only, is entitled to alternative methods of satisfying the judgment against them if they are unable to pay the fine or costs, in whole or in part, subject to acceptance by the Court. Please click on: [Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs or an Appeal Bond](#).

1. A payment plan, allowing the defendant to make payments toward the fine and costs in designated intervals. Note that if any amount is paid more than 30 days after the judgment assessing the fine or costs then a \$15.00 time payment fee must be assessed.
2. Disposition of the amount assessed by performing community service. There are many options that meet the requirements of the law for community service, see Art.45.049 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for full details. A defendant is entitled to a minimum of \$100 credit for every 8 hours of community service performed.
3. If performing community service imposes an undue hardship, a defendant who is indigent or who lacks sufficient resources to pay is entitled to a waiver of the fine and costs, in whole or in part.

A litigant in **CIVIL** cases, Evictions, Small Claims, Debt Claims, etc, is entitled to alternative methods of satisfying the court costs, subject to acceptance by the Court.

Please click on: [Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs or an Appeal Bond](#).