

Colorado Springs Municipal Court
Probation Department

Payment Programs

If you are visiting the probation department today to ask for time to pay your fine, you have had about three weeks to prepare for your court appearance. Fully 75% of those appearing in court for traffic violations pay their fines in full on their appearance date. However, the judges do recognize that individual circumstances vary. Accordingly, several payment options are offered by the court. **Rules** for each of these programs are established by **court order**.

Fines, fees and costs imposed by municipal judges are collected by the court and deposited into the General Fund of the City of Colorado Springs. The City disburses money from this fund to provide: police and fire protection, street maintenance and construction, parks, affordable housing, etc. A few fees imposed are directed to specific programs. For example, the \$15 surcharge on traffic violations is specifically directed to a fund that provides for public school safety zone improvements – flashing lights, street markings and crossing guards.

1. Pay Today. By far, most people pay their fines in full the day they appear in court. Payments are due by 4:30 pm. Payments are made in the Violations Bureau, Room 108. The court accepts: cash, checks, money orders, VISA, Mastercard and Discover. An ATM machine is available in the lobby on the first floor. Unless other arrangements are made, failure to make payment in full on the day of court will result in a bench warrant for one's arrest. (see reverse.)

2. 72-Hour "Freebee". Some people may be just short of what they need and desire a little time to get their money together. Anyone and everyone is eligible for this option. One simply signs their promise to return within 72 hours and make payment in full. No additional fees or costs are added. However, if payment is not made in full within 72 hours, a bench warrant will issue for one's arrest and the account balance will be turned over to a collections agency. (see reverse.) If unusual circumstances arise and one cannot get the full amount together, they should reappear within 72 hours to discuss possible payment arrangements. If a payment schedule is established, the first monthly payment and the \$25 fee will be due at that time. (see option 4 below).

3. \$150 / Payday Program. This program is for people who are employed (or receive regular income) and who owe the court a small amount -- \$150 or less. The court will allow one extension until their next payday (in no event longer than 30 days) to make payment in full. The probation investigator may call the employer to verify the next payday. No additional fees or costs apply with this option. However, extensions beyond the next payday will not be granted. Failure to pay the balance due in full by the date specified will result in a bench warrant for one's arrest and the account balance will be turned over to a collections agency. (see reverse.)

4. Payment Schedules. This program is for people who owe the court a considerable sum (over \$150) or who are truly indigent. Judges will allow those who qualify up to 90 days to make their payments in full. A **\$25 fee** is imposed for this option. This fee must be **paid today**. One's failure to pay according to their promised payment plan will result in a bench warrant for their arrest and the account balance will be turned over to a collections agency. (see reverse.)

This is a two-sided form. Be sure to read the information on the back!

Parking Tickets

The probation investigator may indicate that outstanding parking tickets are delinquent, and will provide the amount due. The court will take payment for parking tickets BEFORE taking payment for fines, costs, etc.

Bench Warrants

A bench warrant is an order issued by a municipal court judge directing the police or marshals to take one to jail. An additional **\$20 fee** is added to one's account whenever a bench warrant is issued.

If a bench warrant is issued for a traffic violation (or any violation committed by one under 18) the court is required by law to notify the state Division of Motor Vehicles. A notification **fee of \$30** (OJ/W fee) payable to the court is imposed by state law. This law also requires the Division of Motor Vehicles to revoke one's driver's license. DMV charges a **\$95 fee** to reinstate a driver's license. Driving a vehicle without a driver's license is a state traffic offense.

Indigency

One who is without a means of financial support may qualify for an extended payment plan or other alternative. Simply not having a job, however, does not necessarily make one indigent; indigency must be documented. The probation investigator may give one an order to report up to 48 hours to obtain such documentation. The probation investigator will want to know answers to common sense questions, such as exactly how does one support themselves? Where does one live and how are the rent and utilities paid? Does one own a motor vehicle or other property that can be sold? How does one pay for the vehicle, maintain the vehicle and obtain insurance and gasoline to run the vehicle? How does one eat? How does one clothe themselves? For what type of governmental assistance has one qualified? The probation investigator will ask many such questions.

Very narrow indigency standards have been established by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.

This is a two-sided form; be sure to read the information on both sides!