

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 sur-charge 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 your 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. You simply sign their promise to return within 72 hours to make payment in full and sign for a Payment Review date. No additional fees or costs are added. If unusual circumstances arise and you cannot get the full amount together, you will need to appear at the Payment Review date to explain their circumstances to the court. If payment is not made and you do not appear at the Payment Review date, a bench warrant will issue for your arrest. (see reverse.)

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. Probation 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. You will sign the promise to pay and sign for a Payment Review date. If unusual circumstances arise and you cannot get the full amount together, you will need to appear at the Payment Review date to explain your circumstances to the court. If payment is not made and you do not appear at the Payment Review date, a bench warrant will issue for one's arrest. (see reverse.)

4. Payment Schedules. This program is for people who owe the court a considerable sum (over \$150) and cannot utilize one of the first three payment options. Judges will allow those who qualify up to 90 days to make their payments in full. You will sign the payment schedule promise to pay and will sign for a Payment Review date. A **\$25 fee** is imposed for this option. This fee must be **paid the day the fine is imposed**. If unusual circumstances arise and you do not pay the full amount by the final due date, you will need to appear at the Payment Review date to explain their circumstances to the court. If payment in full is not made and you do not appear at the Payment Review date, a bench warrant will issue for your arrest. (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.

Failure to Pay

If at any time one is unable to pay the monetary amount, one has the right to appear before the court to present evidence of inability to pay the amount due. If a hearing is scheduled and one fails to appear at such hearing, a failure to appear bench warrant will issue. A bench warrant is an order issued by a municipal court judge directing the police or marshals to take you to jail.

An additional **\$40 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 an additional fee to reinstate a driver's license. Driving a vehicle without a driver's license is a state traffic offense.

If you willfully fails to pay the monetary amount due in accordance with the direction of the court, you may be found in Contempt of Court and may be imprisoned up to 15 days.

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. Probation may give you an order to report up to 48 hours to obtain such documentation. The Probation Department will want to know answers to common sense questions, such as exactly how do you support yourself? Where do you live and how are the rent and utilities paid? Do you own a motor vehicle or other property that can be sold? How do you pay for the vehicle, maintain the vehicle and obtain insurance and gasoline to run the vehicle? How do you eat? How do you clothe yourself? For what type of governmental assistance have you qualified? The Probation Department 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!