

Bedford Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

Payment Information and Options

You are or will be assessed Court Costs, Fines, and /or fees for matters before this Court.

Due Date:

Costs and fines are due in 90 days. On the 91st day, any unpaid balance will be sent to collections and a 17% fee, as well as state and local interest, will be added to the balance due.

Social Security:

If your sole financial resource is a Social Security benefit or Supplemental Security Income, then you are not required to pay assessed court costs and fines until you have another financial resource or income. As long as your sole income remains unchanged, your account will not go to collections. The clerk's office **MUST** be notified if your income changes because the Court is still required to assess you for the usual court costs and fines. You may also file a separate request with the Court if you need to have guardian ad litem fees exempted. You MUST provide proof of your income to the clerk at the window and sign a sworn acknowledgment that this is your sole income for your costs and fines to be deferred.

Note: Please understand that any restitution you have been ordered to pay is NOT included in this exemption of payment and is due as the Court has ordered.

Community Service:

All or part of your court costs and fines may be discharged by participating in our community service program. A party may earn \$15 per hour of community service work to be applied as credit against your account balance. You will have 12 months to complete the community service after signing an acknowledgment with the clerk's office. During the 12 months, as community service worksheets are received, the hours will be converted to a dollar amount and applied to your balance. If your balance is paid in full within the 12 months, your account will NOT be sent to collections. However, if your balance has not been paid in full by payment or with community service hours, the remaining balance will be sent to collections and additional fees and interest will be added to the balance. If you would like to participate in the Community Service Program, please see the clerk at the window to sign an acknowledgment of your participation, an acknowledgment of a \$10 fee to participate, and acknowledgement of the due date for payment or completion.

Time-to-Pay Agreement:

If you are unable to pay the full amount of court costs and fines assessed to you within the 90 days, you may sign up for a Time-to-Pay Plan for a \$10 fee. The Plan allows you 9 months from your hearing date to pay your account in full. No down payment is required. If you have not paid the balance in full within the 9 months, you may extend the due date by paying \$50 or 5% of the remaining balance (whichever is greater) for an additional 6 months or agree to pay at least \$25 per month until the balance is paid.

Restitution is due on a set date as ordered in court and cannot be paid with community service or have the due date extended with a time-to-pay agreement. Restitution balances are not exempt if your sole income is a social security benefit or supplemental security income.

Guardian ad litem (GAL) fees of less than \$500 are due in 6 months and fees of \$500 or more are due in 12 months. GAL fees cannot be paid with community service or have the due date extended with a time-to-pay agreement. They can be deferred if your sole income is a social security benefit upon separate request as described above.