

Fines, fees and levies in criminal matters

English

Information for defendants

If you are sentenced for an offence, you may have to pay **fees** and **levies**.

The Magistrate may also impose a financial penalty on you. This is called a **fine**.

The total amount you must pay will be the fees and levies, as well as any fine imposed by the Magistrate.

Fees

If you are convicted and fined for an offence, you must pay the **information fee** (also known as Court costs). This is the fee for laying each charge against you. In 2024-25 the fee is \$97 for each offence.

Levies

If you are convicted and fined for an offence, you will also be required to pay the **victim services levy**. This levy goes towards improving services for victims of crime. The victim services levy is \$60 per offence.

If you are convicted of an offence, you will also be required to pay the **victims financial assistance levy**. This levy is payable regardless of whether you receive a fine. This levy contributes to the cost of providing financial assistance for victims of crime. This levy is \$50 per offence.

Levies are paid to the Territory.

NOTE: Fees and levies are correct as at 1 July 2024, and are updated on 1 July every year.

Your contact details

It is important that the Court has up-to-date contact details to ensure you receive notices about fines, fees and levies.

If you do not pay your fine on time, additional administrative fees may be payable and enforcement action may be taken.

How to pay fines, fees and levies

Fines, fees and levies can be paid:

- in person at the Magistrates Court counter
- with a direct debit application form, available from the Magistrates Court counter or our website
- by phone using a credit card by calling the Fine Management team Monday to Friday between 9am and 4:15pm
- by bank transfer by emailing the Fine Management team for details

To request an extension of time to pay or to seek a waiver of a fee, contact the Fine Management team.

More information

Visit our website at www.courts.act.gov.au/magistrates/fees.-fines-and-costs.

Contact the Fine Management team on:

- Phone 02 6205 4441
- Email Fine.Management@courts.act.gov.au

Examples

The following examples are provided for information only. If you have any questions about your individual circumstances, please contact the Fine Management team.

NOTE: Fees and levies are correct as at 1 July 2024, and are updated on 1 July every year.

Example 1: Jane Doe

Jane has been charged with three offences. She pleads guilty and is sentenced for all three offences.

The Magistrate imposes a fine of \$500 for each offence, totalling \$1500.

In addition to the fine, Jane will also pay fees and levies.

Item	Amount
Fine imposed by the Magistrate	\$ 1,500
Information fee (court costs) = \$97 each for three charges	\$ 291
Victim services levy = \$60 each for three offences	\$ 180
Victims financial assistance levy = \$50 each for three offences	\$ 150
Total amount payable	\$ 2,121

Example 2: Jim Doe

Jim has been charged with seven offences. He pleads not guilty and the matter goes to a hearing. At the hearing, he is found guilty of two of the offences.

He is sentenced for two offences.

The Magistrate chooses not to impose a fine.

Even though the Magistrate has not imposed a fine, Jim still has to pay the victims financial assistance levy. In this example, neither an information fee nor a victims services levy is payable as a fine was not imposed by the Magistrate.

Item	Amount
Fine imposed by the Magistrate	\$ 0
Information fee (court costs)	\$ 0
Victim services levy	\$ 0
Victims financial assistance levy = \$50 each for two offences	\$ 100
Total amount payable	\$ 100