

# COURT FINES AND FEES

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Use these instructions if you are facing a fine or fee for a criminal offense and you do not have a lawyer.**

If you do not have enough money to pay your fine or court costs for a criminal offense, you have the right to have a court hearing to ask for one of three things:

1. That you be given more time to pay;
2. That you do community service instead of paying;
3. That the Court discharge (or not make you pay) the fine or costs.

Attached are forms for the three options. You need to fill out the **one** that fits your situation and bring it to Court. You may be asked to stand in front of the judge at a hearing and give more information about what you are asking for.

At a hearing, you can:

- Tell the Judge how much money you have (bring paystubs or other proof of income).
- Tell the Judge how much you pay for rent, food, or other things (bring copies of bills, expenses).
- Ask the Judge to let you pay the money later.
- Ask the Judge to let you pay on a payment plan.
- Ask the Judge to let you do community service instead of paying the fines.
- Ask the Judge to let you pay less or nothing at all.
- Ask the Judge to appoint a lawyer to help you.

***Always make sure that court officials have your current mailing address, phone number, and/or email. Respond to all court notices and always come to all your scheduled court dates.***

Sample court forms are available online at [aclunebraska.org/myrightsincourt](http://aclunebraska.org/myrightsincourt)