

Are you having
problems
with fines?



Legal Aid 
NEW SOUTH WALES

All fines have a **due date for payment**.

If you don't pay by the due date, Revenue NSW will start **recovery action** against you.

What is recovery action?

Recovery action means that Revenue NSW can:

- ask Transport for NSW to suspend your driver licence or cancel your car registration
- take money from your bank account or wages
- refer your debt to a private debt collection agency
- register an interest on any land or property you may own, and
- tell the sheriff to take your goods or property and sell them.

Each action taken may add more to your debt.

You can stop Revenue NSW taking recovery action. You just need to pay in full, apply for a payment plan or manage the fine in a way that suits your circumstances.

What type of fine do I have?

There are three types of fines that Revenue NSW manage:

- **Court fines** are fines imposed by a court and include court costs and victims support levies.
- **Fine notices** are issued by parking inspectors, police officers, rangers, transit officers, Transport for NSW cameras or other government departments. They can include parking, speeding, train, failing to vote or jury offences.
- **Orders for restitution** are issued by Victims Services and are managed by Revenue NSW if they aren't paid.

What can I do?

Reducing your fines debt may be easier than you think.

Even if you have lots of fines debt that has built up over time, there are still things you can do to stop recovery action and get back on track.

There are options and services available to help you if you are having serious financial, medical or other personal problems.

Some of these options and services are explained in this brochure.

Options for dealing with your fines

- **Set up a payment plan.** You can ask Revenue NSW to set up a payment plan so you can make payments over time.
- **Request a review.** If you believe the fine should not have been issued to you, you can apply to Revenue NSW for the fine to be reviewed.
- **Nominate another driver.** If your fine was the result of a camera detected driving offence and you weren't the driver of the vehicle at that time, you can apply to have the fine reviewed.

**Never ignore a fine –
get help today**

**It may seem overwhelming but you
can always do something about it.**

- **Court election and appeal.** You can choose to dispute your fine notice by going to court. If you have a court fine, you may be able to appeal it in a higher court. Get legal advice before you do this. Once you get a court attendance notice from Revenue NSW, you can't change your mind.
- **Work and Development Order (WDO).** If you meet certain eligibility criteria, you may be able to do a WDO to pay off your fines. WDO activities include doing unpaid volunteer work, counselling, an educational course or other activity.

When you arrange to do a WDO, recovery action stops and any driving restrictions due to unpaid fines are lifted. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, see the Legal Aid NSW publication, [Can't pay your fines?](#)
- **50% reduction.** You can ask Revenue NSW for a 50% reduction for some fines if you are on a Centrelink payment, have not had four or more similar fines within 12 months of the first offence date and the fine is not considered serious.
- **Write off.** If you are experiencing serious financial, medical or personal hardship and are unable to pay your fines, you can apply to Revenue NSW to write off your debt. To get help with this call LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.

To find out more about options for dealing with your fines visit www.nsw.gov.au/money-and-taxes/fines-and-fees/fines or scan this QR code.



Need more information?

LawAccess NSW

LawAccess NSW is a free information service run by Legal Aid NSW. They provide legal information and referrals for people with a legal problem in NSW.

Click on the Chat with us button at www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 888 529** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Legal Aid NSW WDO Service

The Work and Development Order Service gives free legal advice and help for people with unpaid fines. They can help you find a WDO sponsor. To find out more call LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.

You can also email the WDO Service at wdo@legalaid.nsw.gov.au, or visit www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Finefixer NSW

FineFixer NSW is an online self-help tool developed by Legal Aid NSW lawyers that can help you understand how to deal with your fine depending on your circumstances. Visit www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/guided-pathways.

Community Legal Centres (CLC)

Free legal advice and assistance. To find your nearest CLC call **9212 7333** or visit www.clcnsw.org.au

National Debt Helpline

Call **1800 007 007** for free legal advice and assistance. Information about free financial counsellors www.financialrights.org.au

Revenue NSW

Information about your fines and debts and how to pay.

Fine notices: **1300 138 118**

Overdue fines: **1300 655 805**

WDO Hotline: **1300 478 879**

This publication is a general guide to the law. You should not rely on it as legal advice, and we recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your situation.

The information is correct at the time of printing, however it may change. For more information contact LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.



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Order brochures online at:
www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources

For more information, visit:
www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Do you need help to contact us?



If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** (9am–5pm) and ask for LawAccess NSW.

Do you find it hard to hear or speak?



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the [National Relay Service NRS](#). Ask for LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.