

Got a fine?

It's not going to go away, deal with it straight away



**HERE'S
WHAT
YOU DO**

Legal Aid
NEW SOUTH WALES

I've got a fine. What can I do?

The sooner you do something about a fine the better. Even if you have heaps of fines, or can't pay in full by the due date, you can still get back on track.

What are my options?

There are things you can do to stop recovery action against you.

You can:

- pay the fine off in small amounts each fortnight (a payment plan)
- ask for a review of the fine if you don't think you deserved it
- nominate another driver if you weren't the one driving your car at the time or responsible for the offence
- apply to have the fine written off if you have serious financial, medical, or domestic problems, or
- clear your fines with a work and development order (WDO).

What if I'm on Centrelink?

If you're on a Centrelink payment, like a pension or JobSeeker, you can also:

- apply to have the payments deducted through Centrepay, or
- ask for a reduction in the fine amount if you are eligible.

Court fine, fine notice or order for restitution?

There are three types of fines and different rules for each type of fine.

- **Court fines** are given by a judge or magistrate.

What happens if I don't pay?

If you don't pay your fine, Revenue NSW can take recovery action like:

- 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, or
- order the sheriff to take away the things you own.

Each action taken may add more to your debt.

Recovery action will stop when you:

- make a payment plan with Revenue NSW (some conditions apply), or
- start a work and development order or
- send a write-off application and Revenue NSW has received it.

If your licence was suspended, don't drive until you are sure the suspension has been lifted.

What is a WDO?

WDO's let you clear your fines by doing activities like unpaid work, counselling, courses or treatment programs with WDO sponsors. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, see the Legal Aid NSW publication [Can't pay your fines?](#)

• **Fine notices** are given out by authorised officers like a parking inspector, ranger, transit officer or the police.

• **Orders for restitution** are issued by Victims Services NSW.

Where can I find more information?

Mob Strong Debt Help

A free nationwide legal advice and financial counselling service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Call **1800 808 488** or visit <https://financialrights.org.au/getting-help/mob-strong-debt-help/>

Call **1800 793 017** or **(02) 9219 5057**

Revenue NSW First Nations Team

A culturally safe service to support First Nations Peoples to get back on track with debt.

Call **1800 002 345** or visit www.nsw.gov.au/money-and-taxes/fines-and-fees/support-and-community-services/first-nations-support

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.

Don't ignore a fine

Everyone has trouble paying fines. Overdue fines lead to bigger debt and more serious problems.

Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (CLSAC)

CLSAC are a service of Legal Aid NSW. CLSAC goes to communities in NSW and can help with money problems like loans, debts, fines, funeral insurance, scams, housing and Centrelink problems.

Call **1800 793 017** or **(02) 9219 5057** or email clsac@legalaid.nsw.gov.au.

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).

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/guidedpathways.

Aboriginal Legal Service

Call **1800 765 767**
www.alsnswact.org.au

National Debt Helpline

Free legal help and financial counselling.

Call **1800 007 007** or visit
www.financialrights.org.au

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**.