



Court Costs



Rhonda Kuehn
Court Administrator
City of Brenham

Fill-in-the-blanks!

- Court costs are reported to the State Comptroller of Public Accounts on a quarterly basis.
- Court costs are due upon conviction.
- A judge may waive court costs only when (1) teen court is granted; or (2) an indigent defendant defaults in payment of a fine or costs and community service would be an undue hardship.



4. When a defendant has insufficient resources or income to pay a fine or costs, a judge may require community service in payment of the fine and/or court costs, credited at not less than \$50 toward the fine for every 8 hours of service.
5. If a defendant has served time in jail for committing an offense or for any warrants associated with the offense, a judge **MUST** credit the defendant for time served in jail.



State Court Costs

Fee	Amount	Percent Retained Locally if Timely Filed
SCF*	\$40	10%
STF	\$30	5%
SJRF*	\$4	10%
SJSF*	\$6	10%
IDF*	\$2	10%

* Does not apply to parking or pedestrian offenses.



Increase Judicial Support Fee

Senate Bill 600

- Amount: From \$4.00 to \$6.00
- Reminder:
 - Service fee (city share) – 10%: \$.60
- Effective January 1, 2008 (because of GC §51.607)
 - conviction of offenses occurring on or after



Government Code §51.607

- Applies to new court costs and fees
- Applies to changed court costs and fees
- Effective date generally rolled to January 1
- Exceptions:
 - (1) Bill provides §51.607 doesn't apply
 - (2) Takes effect before August 1 or after January 1
- Comptroller required to prepare a list for Texas Register by August 1st



New Indigent Defense Fee

House Bill 1267

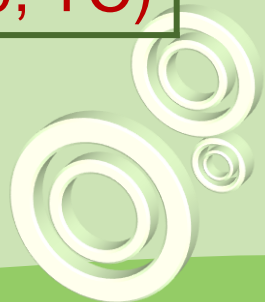
- Amount: \$2.00
- Service fee (city share) – 10%

Fees will go to the fair defense account in county court.



Local Court Costs

Fee	Amount	Applies to...
LCSF	\$20	Failure to Attend School and Parent Contributing to Nonattendance
	\$25	Offense in a School-crossing Zone and Passing a School Bus
LTF	\$3	Subtitle C, Rules of the Road Offenses (Ch. 541 through 600, TC)



Trial-related Fees

Fee	Amount
Summoning Defendant	\$35
Summoning Witness	\$5
Summoning Jury	\$5
Summoning Parents of Juveniles	\$35
Jury Fee (if convicted)	\$3
Officer's Overtime for Testifying	Actual Cost
Late Withdrawal of Request for Jury Trial	\$3
Failure to Appear for Jury Trial	Actual Cost

Teen Court Fees

House Bill 2949

- Amount: From NTE \$10.00 to \$20.00
- Both administrative fee and program fee
 - but ONLY in courts located in Texas-Louisiana border region (GC §2056.002)
 - Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, and Wood counties
- Effective January 1, 2008 (because of GC §51.607)
 - requests for program made on or after



Driving Record Fee

Senate Bill 1083

- Amount: From \$10.00 to \$10.00 plus TexasOnline fee
- Effective January 1, 2008 (because of GC §51.607)
 - offenses committed on or after



Deferred Disposition – Costs and Fees

House Bill 2267

- Old Law - Must be paid and paid up front
- New Law – Judge can:
 - (1) Allow costs and fees to be paid in installments
 - agreement required
 - paid during period of probation
 - (2) Require costs and fees be satisfied by performing community service
 - per CCP Article 45.049
 - (3) Require costs and fees be satisfied by a combination of installment payments / community service
- Effective September 1, 2007



Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement System Revenue

House Bill 1623 / Senate Bill 1119

- Ordinance required
- Civil or administrative penalty – not to exceed \$75.00
- Late payment penalty – not to exceed \$25.00
- Fifty percent of “net revenue” must be sent to the State
 - within 60 days of city fiscal year end



Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement System Revenue

- Fifty percent of “net revenue” retained by city (in a special account) and used only to fund
 - traffic safety programs (including pedestrian safety programs);
 - public safety programs;
 - intersection improvements; and
 - traffic enforcement



Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement System Revenue

- “Net Revenue” Formula:

Civil / administrative penalties
(Late payment penalties excluded)

- Equipment costs
 - Installation costs
 - Operating costs
 - Maintenance costs
- = “Net Revenue”



Dismissal Fees!

- \$10 vs. \$20
- Fees required in most instances
- Fee is NOT TO EXCEED ...

