

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



Contact: Aaron Nash
Phone: 602-452-3656
Email: anash@courts.az.gov

March 26, 2020

Arizona Courts Accept Cash Payments Through Retailers

PHOENIX – The Administrative Office of the Courts, in partnership with the Fines, Fees, and Restitution Enforcement program (FARE) have arranged for court customers to pay through the PayNearMe network with cash at locations throughout the state and nation. Although the program has been in development for months, having options to conduct business outside of courthouses has become a priority in response to the COVID-19 public health event.

The PayNearMe network includes 27,000 retail locations nationwide that accept cash payments, including participating 7-Eleven[®], Family Dollar[®] and other retail locations. The program allows customers to bring in a barcode linked to their Arizona court case to make cash payments on outstanding costs, such as victim restitution, court fines and fees, and deferred filing fees. Customers can use a printed barcode or a digital barcode on their phone to make payments on their Arizona cases at participating retailers.

The program allows payments in criminal and civil cases, including traffic matters, and in juvenile cases. The program does not accept payments for warrants, probation payments, child support, or other family court costs and the court must have entered a final disposition in the case. The 178 Arizona courts that participate in the FARE program can now accept cash payments using PayNearMe. COVID-19 may have negatively impacted individuals' financial situation, and courts may have adjusted their billing and collection efforts as a result. Customers should contact their court to see if alternative payment plans are available.

For those who can make a payment and are looking for an alternative that does not require entering a courthouse, the PayNearMe network is one option. Maricopa County Superior Court, Mesa Municipal Court, Tempe Municipal Court, Gilbert Municipal Court, and Paradise Valley Municipal Court are not currently participating in the FARE program, but planning is underway for all courts to join FARE and offer the same services to their customers. All other Arizona courts are participating.

For many years, parties have been able to pay their court costs using a debit or credit card at the website <https://azcourtpay.com>. Parties who do not use debit or credit cards or who prefer to pay with cash can now print or receive a barcode from the same website and use it at a PayNearMe participating retailer in Arizona or around the country to make a cash payment. Although PayNearMe allows multiple forms of payment in its other programs, such as utility bill payments, Arizona's courts program is a cash-only service. Arizona participants using PayNearMe pay a \$2.99 fee to the vendor to process up to \$1,000 for each payment made through the service. Customers who make a cash payment toward their court-related costs will receive a receipt as proof of payment and the funds will be applied directly to the individual's court case.

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