

Can I Pay My Victim(s) Directly?

NO. Once restitution has been Court Ordered, your payments **MUST** come through the Juvenile Probation Office. Payment will be recorded so that you receive credit for your payment and a check is then mailed to the victim.

How Can I Pay, If I Cannot Find A Job?

If you cannot find a job, talk to you Probation Officer. The Probation Officer has access to special work programs and may be able to assist you in finding employment. Remember that you owe a debt to a victim and you may have to take a job that is not exactly what you want to do in order to pay back your debt.

How Can I Pay If I Am Too Young To Work?

If you are too young to work, check with parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors, you may be able to do chores or other tasks such as cutting grass, raking leaves, shoveling snow, etc. to earn money.

What Happens If I Do Not Pay?

Failure to pay your restitution is a technical violation of your court supervision. There are many consequences that could happen if you do not pay restitution. These include:

- Extension of your Consent Decree
- Extension of your Extended Service Agreement
- Extension of your Probation supervision
- Hearing before the Juvenile Court Judge
- Placement in a residential program
- Wage attachment
- Civil suit filed by victim against you and your parents
- A judgment (lien) against you that will prevent you from buying property, a car, etc. until the lien is satisfied.

What About Other Fines, Costs and Fees?

The Court may order you to pay fines and costs, in addition to restitution, that must be paid before your case is closed.



“Why Do I Have To Pay Restitution?”



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Why Do I Have To Pay Restitution?

When you commit a crime, you not only harm the victim, but the community as well. Under the Balanced and Restorative Justice principles that Pennsylvania follows, you have an obligation to repair that which you have harmed. One way is by paying back your victim for any financial losses they suffered because of your behavior. These losses may include property loss, medical bills, home and car repairs, insurance deductible, etc. Paying restitution is a way of taking responsibility for you actions and trying to right the wrong you committed.

How Is Restitution Determined?

Victims provide documentation of the value of items stolen or damaged and the amount of payment, if any, by their insurance company. If the case goes to court, the Judge or Juvenile Master will verify the claim and determine the actual amount you owe. If the case is handled at an Intake Conference, the Intake Officer will verify the amount.

What If I Disagree With The Amount Of Restitution Ordered?

If you disagree with the amount, discuss your concerns with your attorney, who will be able to answer your questions. You cannot see the victim's financial statements, but you will be told what is listed on them.

When Is Restitution Due?

Restitution is a condition of your supervision. It is due as soon as possible. Your Probation Officer will determine a suitable payment plan if you are unable to pay the full amount immediately.

How Long Do I Have To Pay Restitution?

Restitution must be paid in full before your case can be closed. This means you could be on probation until you are 21 years old if you do not fulfill this obligation.

If you are on a Consent Decree or Extended Service Agreement, payment must be made in full before the Consent Decree or Agreement can expire.

Can My Parents Pay Restitution For Me?

Yes, but you should then reimburse your parents. You are the one who committed the crime and you should take responsibility for the reimbursement to the victim.

Where Do I Send My Payments?

Payments may be made by cash, check or money order through the mail or in person. Include your name and the word "restitution" on the memo line. Checks and Money Orders should be made payable to:

McKean County Juvenile Court

And mailed to the following address:

**McKean County Juvenile Probation
Courthouse
500 W. Main Street
Smethport, PA 16749**

You may also make payments directly to your Probation Officer. If you would like to make payments in person to the Juvenile Probation Office (address listed above) they may be made anytime between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Monday thru Friday.