

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I am divorced and my ex-spouse is not paying child support. Why do I have to pay Probation?

Both parents are legally responsible for the minor and both parents are billed for these obligations.

Why is my family getting 3 bills each month?

The minor, mother and father will each receive their own billing statements each month.

Some of the financial obligations for your minor or yourself may or may not be owed by all 3 of you.

My "minor" is 18 years old now. Why am I still getting bills from probation?

Parents are still responsible for paying financial obligations resulting from legal actions or services rendered when the minor was under the age of 18.

Why am I being billed for the same charges the other parent is being billed for?

Some of the financial obligations are "Joint and Several". This means that both parents are equally responsible to pay for the same charges.

When this happens, payments made by other responsible parties toward those obligations will reduce the balance on your account and will be reflected on your bill as a co-obligated credit.

ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

As a public safety agency, the Orange County Probation Department serves the community using efficient and research supported corrections practices to:

- *Reduce Crime*
- *Assist the Courts in Managing Offenders*
- *Promote Lawful and Productive Lifestyles*
- *Assist Victims*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

THE ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

www.ocgov.com/ocgov/Probation

P. O. BOX 10260
SANTA ANA, CA 92711

(714) 935-7411

**Ask for the
Financial Officer
of the Day.**

**My minor is in the
Juvenile Justice System,
what do I need to
know about costs and
obligations?**

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

**Information for Parents, Legal
Guardians or any person
responsible for the care and
support of the minor.**



**ORANGE COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**STEVEN J. SENTMAN
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER**

This brochure is designed to provide general information about potential financial liabilities, which a minor, parent(s), guardian(s), or any person responsible for the care and support of the minor may be facing when the minor is involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO PAY?

Minors, parents, legal guardians or other persons liable for the support of the minor may each be liable for various financial obligations.

The responsible party may be required by law to pay for victim restitution, fines and services rendered by County agencies to the minor and/or parent.

Generally, both parents and guardians may be responsible for paying for the minor's financial obligations unless the Court makes a different determination.

There are a few exceptions to this rule, so if you have questions, please contact us.

WHAT OBLIGATIONS MAY I BE LIABLE TO PAY?

Some of the most common types of financial obligations are:

- **Victim Restitution** – this is money that will be paid back to the victim of a criminal action. Both the minor and parents are responsible for paying victim restitution.

- **Restitution Fines** – this fine is mandatory by law. Both the minor and parents are responsible for paying the restitution fine.
- **Legal Fees** – The law requires that the minor, parent(s) or any person responsible for the support of the minor, each have legal representation (Attorney) in Court. The parent(s) may hire their own private attorney or the Court may appoint counsel(s) to represent them and their minor. The parent(s) may be responsible for all or part of their own and for the minor's legal representation.
- **Institutional Fees** – If the minor has been placed in the custody of a juvenile institution, such as Juvenile Hall, the parent(s) may be liable for institutional fees. The County will charge a daily fee for the time the minor is housed in the institution. Only the parent(s) and legal guardians are responsible for the payment of institutional fees.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT I OWE?

You will receive a Statement of Cost with the detail of the charges you are responsible to pay. You will also receive a monthly billing statement that reflects all charges.

HOW DO I PAY?

Payment of any of these financial obligations is subject to your ability to pay. You are required to cooperate with the Financial Officer in an evaluation of your ability to pay.

In order for the financial evaluation to be successful,

you will be required to provide proof of your income and proof of your expenses.

The financial officer will work with you to set up a payment plan that will satisfy the court's orders while taking into consideration your individual circumstances.

Payments can be made in person at any Probation office, mailed to the Probation Department at P. O. Box 10178, Santa Ana, CA 92711, paid on-line at www.ocgov.com/ocgov/Probation or by calling 1-800-533-0943.

DO I HAVE RIGHTS?

Yes. You have the right to appear in front of the Juvenile Court for a determination of your ability to pay the financial obligations.

WHERE DO I GO TO TALK WITH THE FINANCIAL OFFICER?

The Probation Department's financial officers are located on the 4th floor of the Manchester Office Building directly across the courtyard from the Lamoreaux Justice Center. The address is 301 The City Dr., Orange 92868.

If you do not successfully contact the financial officer, we will request for you to appear in front of the Juvenile Court for a determination of your ability to pay.

You are required to contact the financial officer to provide any change of address and or place of employment.