

## CIRCUIT COURT of the State of Oregon

for Benton County
Twenty-First Judicial District
Benton County Courthouse
120 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street Corvallis, Oregon



Effective April 13, 2020

## Contact the Benton County Circuit Court if you need help paying your fines and fees during the COVID-19 state of emergency

Oregon Chief Justice Martha Walters has encouraged circuit courts to take additional steps to help people during the COVID-19 emergency. In recognition of the need to alleviate undue hardship, Presiding Judge Locke Williams issued Order 20-003, on April 13, 2020, that provides for reduced or suspended fines. If you contact the court, we can reduce your payments and will limit additional fees, driver license suspensions, and other collections activities.

## During the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Benton County Circuit Court will:

- 1. Work with you to reduce your monthly payments.
- 2. Offer more flexible payment plans.
- 3. Allow you to stop making payments for a period of time.
  - a. You need to contact the court and will still owe the debt.
  - b. Your debt will not accrue interest, fees, or penalties.

## During the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Benton County Circuit Court will not:

- 1. Impose fees to set up a payment plan.
- 2. Impose late fees on judgments more than 30 days old.
- 3. Suspend driver licenses for failure to pay a fine within 30 days.
- 4. Send delinquency notices.
- 5. Impose collection fees or refer cases to collections.
- 6. Issue new garnishments

Any person affected by the COVID-19 state of emergency may request a suspension or reduction of scheduled payments by email to <a href="mailto:Benton.Room104@ojd.state.or.us">Benton.Room104@ojd.state.or.us</a> or by phone at (541) 243-7841.

If you are able to make your regularly scheduled payment, or a reduced payment, you can pay using one of the following methods:

- Online www.courts.oregon.gov/ePay
- By phone at 1-888-564-2828
- In-person using the drop box located at Benton County Courthouse, outside Room 101

These changes will be in effect until 60 days after the governor's COVID-19 state of emergency ends, or as otherwise determined by the court.

Other courts, such as municipal and justice courts, are not affected by these changes.