

A work and development order (WDO) for a court fine



What is a work and development order?

A work and development order (WDO) allows you to reduce your fines by up to \$1,000 a month by doing unpaid work, courses, counselling, mentoring or treatment programs. You can apply for a WDO if you are either:

- experiencing serious financial hardship,
- experiencing a mental health condition,
- living with an intellectual or cognitive disability,
- experiencing homelessness,
- experiencing an alcohol or substance use disorder, or
- under the age of 18.

On a WDO you may reduce your fines through participation in any of the following activities:

- medical/mental health treatment
- financial or other counselling (including case management)
- drug or alcohol treatment
- educational/vocational or life skills course
- voluntary unpaid work
- mentoring programs.

Can a court fine be cleared through a WDO?

Yes. A court fine (Notice of Penalty) may be cleared through a WDO. If a court fine remains unpaid after 28 days, it will be transferred to Revenue NSW for management and enforcement costs will be added. Once a court fine is managed by Revenue NSW you may apply for a WDO.

Note: Compensation and some professional costs may not be transferred to Revenue NSW and will remain to be managed by the court.

Can a court fine be early enforced for a WDO?

Yes. As soon as a court fine is issued, and before it becomes overdue, it can be early enforced to Revenue NSW for management. If you early enforce the fine, no enforcement costs will be added. Once a court fine is managed by Revenue NSW, you may apply for a WDO.

How do I early enforce my fine to set up a WDO?

1. Before the fine due date, make a verbal or written request to the registry to early enforce your fine for a WDO. You can do this by:
 - Contacting the NSW Court Service Centre on 1300 679 272
 - Sending a written request by email or post to the relevant court registry
 - Attending a [NSW Local Court](#) registry
2. Your request will be processed, and the fine will be transferred to Revenue NSW. No enforcement costs are added.
3. Revenue NSW will review your application and will contact you if they require further information to set up your WDO.

Note: It can take up to seven business days for your application to be received by Revenue NSW. You can call Revenue NSW on **1300 478 879** to check on your application.

What happens next?

- If you are eligible for a WDO, you will need to find a WDO sponsor. A WDO sponsor is an approved organisation, health practitioner or social worker that supports people through the WDO process. To locate an approved sponsor visit nsw.gov.au and search for a WDO sponsor.
- If you can't find a sponsor, call the WDO Hotline on **1300 478 879** to speak with a Revenue NSW support officer.

Who can I contact for help?

- **LawAccess NSW** is a free information service run by Legal Aid NSW and can refer you for assistance with fines or to locate a WDO sponsor in your region. Contact LawAccess NSW via webchat at www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au or call them on **1300 888 529**, Monday–Friday 9am–5pm (except for public holidays).
- **The Aboriginal Legal Service ACT/NSW (ALS)** provides free legal advice about fines to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Call **1800 765 767** (select option 3).

For more information, call the WDO hotline 1300 478 879.



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