

OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT Office of the State Court Administrator

February 2, 2023 (SENT BY EMAIL)

The Honorable Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair The Honorable Paul Evans, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety 900 Court Street NE H-178 State Capitol Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Judicial Department – Datasets and Dashboards (Civil/Revenue) Informational Meeting on January 31, 2023

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Thank you again for the opportunity to present information about the Oregon Judicial Department's (OJD) data relating to civil filings and revenues. We appreciate having the time with the committee and are responding to questions posed by you and committee members that we were not able to immediately answer during the hearing.

1. Senator Sollman asked how many of the eviction filings result in the tenant being evicted.

The table below includes annual Landlord Tenant case filings, and, of those filings, how many resulted in a judgment in favor of the landlord evicting the tenant.

There are situations where people are displaced from their homes without a judgment in favor of the landlord. For example, there could have been a stipulated agreement between the landlord and the tenant that resulted in a move-out date for the tenant. The case then would be dismissed instead of resulting in a judgment in favor of the landlord.

Year	Cases Filed	Judgments for Landlord
2017	19,095	7,944
2018	18,250	8,180
2019	18,675	8,107
2020	6,119	2,853
2021	7,947	3,241
2022	18,900	6,836

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2. Representative Evans asked for information about how people can work off their outstanding fines, fees, and restitution through community service.

OJD responded in the hearing that Oregon law authorizes a community service exchange program, but it does not apply to all types of fines/fees and restitution. Representative Evans then asked for additional information. The summary below provides additional details about the community service exchange program, as well as information about debt modification of outstanding fines and fees based on an individual's ability to pay.

a. <u>Community Service Exchange Program</u>: Senate Bill 360 (2017, now ORS 144.089) directed each county to establish a community service exchange program, effective January 1, 2018. The local county supervisory authority may determine whether to participate in the program. The program will allow a person, who has served a sentence in the legal and physical custody of the Department of Corrections and who is serving an active period of parole or post-prison supervision, to enter into an agreement with a community-based organization to perform community service in lieu of payment of the delinquent fees or debts and supervision fees that qualify for the program.

Under that statute, the following types of criminal court debt qualify for waiver under this program:

- Court costs;
- Attorney fees (does not include indigent application fee or contribution amounts);
- Payment schedule assessment fees; and
- Collection referral assessment fees.

Also under that statute, the following types of criminal court debts do not qualify for waiver:

- Restitution or compensatory fines imposed under ORS 137.101 to 137.109;
- Felony and misdemeanor fines under ORS 137.286;
- Any violation fine (traffic, non-traffic, mass transit); and
- Miscellaneous fees (bench probation fee, parole violation fee, DUII conviction fee, etc.).
- b. <u>Criminal Fine and Fee Reduction</u>: A new Uniform Trial Court Rule <u>UTCR 4.120</u> (page 5) became effective on August 1, 2022, to implement a process for statutory changes that permit certain individuals to request a reduction or modification of fines, fees, costs, or court-appointed attorney fees imposed in a final criminal judgment of conviction or a judgment finding a person in contempt for failure to pay.

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We hope this answers these questions to your satisfaction, and appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this additional information.

Sincerely,

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Nancy J. Cozine State Court Administrator

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