

Work and Development Order

Voluntary enforcement of court fines

What is a Work and Development Order?

Work and Development Orders (WDO) are a way to help people who can't pay their fines.

In the WDO scheme, government agencies, non-government organisations and health practitioners can apply on behalf of clients who have a debt with us. The debts can be satisfied via programs of work, by completing approved courses, or treatment.

To be eligible for a WDO, the client must:

- be in acute economic hardship
- have a mental illness, intellectual disability or cognitive impairment
- have a serious addiction to drugs, alcohol or volatile substances
- be homeless.

Can a court fine be voluntarily enforced to be included in a WDO?

Yes. Under section 14(1A) (b) of the *Fines Act 1996*, a court fine can be voluntarily enforced to be included in a WDO. This means that no enforcement cost will be applied to the court fine while a WDO is actively participated in. Voluntary enforcement is sometimes referred to as early enforcement.

Do I need proof the client is applying for a WDO before I enforce the court fine?

No. A verbal request from the client is enough. We'll check if the client is eligible for a WDO. If the client isn't eligible, we'll apply the enforcement fee.

How do I voluntarily enforce the court fine in JusticeLink?

Use the 'Centrepay' button to voluntarily enforce the fine in JusticeLink. Using this button means the court fine is created in our fine enforcement system, without the usual enforcement costs. A Centrepay arrangement won't be created unless the client completes an application form.

Do I need to enter a record of processing (ROP)?

You must enter a ROP saying the voluntary enforcement was for a WDO, because there's no early enforcement application for a WDO and there must be an audit trail.

How will we know the fine was enforced for a WDO?

When we receive a WDO application from the WDO sponsor, the fine will be added to the WDO. If no WDO application is received, we'll contact the court to find out the reason for the voluntary enforcement. You can check the ROP to see if the fine was enforced for a WDO.

Where can I get more information about the WDO scheme?

Call the WDO hotline on 1300 478 879 or visit <https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/fines-and-fees/cant-pay-your-debt>