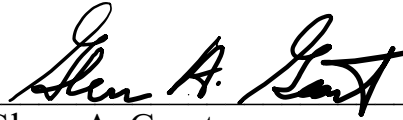


NOTICE TO THE BAR

JUVENILE -- VACATING OF CERTAIN UNPAID FINANCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND ASSOCIATED CIVIL JUDGMENTS

The Supreme Court has authorized use of an automated process to vacate certain unpaid costs, fees, fines, and monetary penalties imposed on juveniles with a deferred disposition or an adjudication of delinquency, as well as associated civil judgments. The Court's attached November 1, 2022 Order implements the provisions of L. 2021, c. 342.

Questions may be directed to Probation Services at (609) 815-3810 x16243 or the Family Practice Division at (609) 815-2900 x55350.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn A. Grant", is written over a horizontal line.

Glenn A. Grant

Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: November 1, 2022

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

L. 2021, c. 342, enacted on January 10, 2022, as of that date eliminated the imposition of certain statutory or court-ordered costs, fees, fines, and monetary penalties (collectively referred to as “financial assessments”) on juveniles adjudicated delinquent or with a deferred disposition. The enactment specifically did not affect either restitution or the monthly penalty imposed in juvenile sex offense cases and deposited into the Sex Offender Supervision Fund (N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.97). The legislation set a separate November 1, 2022 date to address financial assessments that had been imposed prior to enactment and that remain unpaid. This Order authorizes the Judiciary to use technology-enabled processes to address those matters.

Pursuant to L. 2021, c. 342, the following six financial assessments assessed against a juvenile were eliminated as of January 10, 2022:

- (a) The Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction (DEDR) penalty required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:35-15 following a successful completion of a deferred disposition (N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-43);
- (b) The costs of a juvenile’s serological test for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or a related virus (N.J.S.A. 2A:4A:43.4.);
- (c) The costs of an approved remedial education or counseling program ordered pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A:71.1;

- (d) The civil penalty of at least \$2,000 or actual costs, whichever is higher, incurred by law enforcement and emergency services in responding to a false public alarm (N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3.2);
- (e) The \$25 forensic laboratory fee imposed on juveniles adjudicated delinquent (N.J.S.A. 2C:35-20); and
- (f) The \$15 Law Enforcement Officers training and Equipment Fund fee imposed on juveniles adjudicated delinquent (N.J.S.A. 2C:43.3.3).

Effective November 1, 2022, L. 2021, c. 342, vacates and discharges any outstanding financial assessment as set forth above. In addition, the legislation provides that any unsatisfied civil judgment based on an unpaid financial assessment shall be vacated. The Judiciary has developed a technological process to vacate pending financial assessments and docketed civil judgments.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that effective November 1, 2022:

1. The Judiciary, via an automated process, will vacate all unpaid financial assessments (as defined above) that were imposed against a juvenile at any time in connection with a juvenile complaint, adjudication of delinquency, or deferred disposition.
2. The Judiciary will implement an automated process to vacate all civil judgments entered in connection with any such unpaid financial assessment imposed against a juvenile at any time in connection with a juvenile complaint, adjudication of delinquency, or deferred disposition.

3. The Clerk of the Superior Court shall vacate all civil judgments in the Civil Judgment and Order docket covered by this Order.
4. A motion to dismiss or motion to vacate may be filed as to any case not captured by the automated process.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: November 1, 2022