

## **ALTERNATIVES TO PAYMENT OF FINES AND COSTS**

A defendant who is convicted of a criminal offense punishable by fine only is entitled to alternative methods of satisfying the judgment against them if they are unable to pay the fine or costs, in whole or in part.

Those alternative methods include:

- A payment plan, allowing the defendant to make payments toward the fine and costs in designated intervals. Note that if any amount is paid more than 30 days after the judgment assessing the fine or costs then the defendant must be charged a \$15 time payment reimbursement fee.
- Disposition of the amount assessed by performing community service. There are many options that meet the requirements of the law for community service, see the Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 45.049 for full details. A defendant is entitled to a minimum of \$100 credit for every 8 hours of community service performed.
- If performing community service imposes an undue hardship, a defendant who is indigent or who lacks sufficient resources to pay may be entitled to a waiver of the fine and costs, in whole or in part.
- A defendant may be entitled to jail credit in certain circumstances if the defendant was confined in jail or prison after the commission of the offense pending in justice court.