

PENAL CODE
Sections 1463.007 & 1463.010

1463.007.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any county or court that operates a comprehensive collection program may deduct the costs of operating that program, excluding capital expenditures, from any revenues collected under that program. The costs shall be deducted before any distribution of revenues to other governmental entities required by any other provision of law. Any county or court operating a comprehensive collection program may establish a minimum base fee, fine, forfeiture, penalty, or assessment amount for inclusion in the program.

(b) Once debt becomes delinquent, it continues to be delinquent and may be subject to collection by a comprehensive collection program. Debt is delinquent and subject to collection by a comprehensive collection program if any of the following conditions is met:

(1) A defendant does not post bail or appear on or before the date on which he or she promised to appear, or any lawful continuance of that date, if that defendant was eligible to post and forfeit bail.

(2) A defendant does not pay the amount imposed by the court on or before the date ordered by the court, or any lawful continuance of that date.

(3) A defendant has failed to make an installment payment on the date specified by the court.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a "comprehensive collection program" is a separate and distinct revenue collection activity that meets each of the following criteria:

(1) The program identifies and collects amounts arising from delinquent court-ordered debt, whether or not a warrant has been issued against the alleged violator.

(2) The program complies with the requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 1463.010.

(3) The program engages in each of the following activities:

(A) Attempts telephone contact with delinquent debtors for whom the program has a phone number to inform them of their delinquent status and payment options.

(B) Notifies delinquent debtors for whom the program has an address in writing of their outstanding obligation within 95 days of delinquency.

(C) Generates internal monthly reports to track collections data, such as age of debt and delinquent amounts outstanding.

(D) Uses Department of Motor Vehicles information to locate delinquent debtors.

(E) Accepts payment of delinquent debt by credit card.

(4) The program engages in at least five of the following activities:

- (A) Sends delinquent debt to the Franchise Tax Board's Court-Ordered Debt Collections Program.
 - (B) Sends delinquent debt to the Franchise Tax Board's Interagency Intercept Collections Program.
 - (C) Initiates driver's license suspension or hold actions when appropriate.
 - (D) Contracts with one or more private debt collectors to collect delinquent debt.
 - (E) Sends monthly bills or account statements to all delinquent debtors.
 - (F) Contracts with local, regional, state, or national skip tracing or locator resources or services to locate delinquent debtors.
 - (G) Coordinates with the probation department to locate debtors who may be on formal or informal probation.
 - (H) Uses Employment Development Department employment and wage information to collect delinquent debt.
 - (I) Establishes wage and bank account garnishments where appropriate.
 - (J) Places liens on real property owned by delinquent debtors when appropriate.
 - (K) Uses an automated dialer or automatic call distribution system to manage telephone calls.
- (d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2012.

(Repealed (in Sec. 30) and added by Stats. 2010, Ch. 720, Sec. 31. Effective October 19, 2010. Section operative July 1, 2012, by its own provisions.)

1463.010.

The uniform imposition and enforcement of court-ordered debts are recognized as an important element of California's judicial system. Prompt, efficient, and effective imposition and collection of court-ordered fees, fines, forfeitures, penalties, restitution, and assessments ensure the appropriate respect for court orders. The California State Association of Counties and the Administrative Office of the Courts are jointly committed to identifying, improving, and seeking to expand access to mechanisms and tools that will enhance efforts to collect court-ordered debt. To provide for this prompt, efficient, and effective collection:

- (a) The Judicial Council shall adopt guidelines for a comprehensive program concerning the collection of moneys owed for fees, fines, forfeitures, penalties, and assessments imposed by court order. As part of its guidelines, the Judicial Council may establish standard agreements for entities to provide collection services. As part of its guidelines, the Judicial Council shall include provisions that promote competition by and between entities in providing collection services to courts and counties. The Judicial Council may delegate to the Administrative Director of the Courts the implementation of the aspects of this program to be carried out at the state level.
- (b) The courts and counties shall maintain the collection program that was in place on January 1, 1996, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the court and county.

The program may wholly or partially be staffed and operated within the court itself, may be wholly or partially staffed and operated by the county, or may be wholly or partially contracted with a third party. In carrying out this collection program, each superior court and county shall develop a cooperative plan to implement the Judicial Council guidelines. In the event that a court and a county are unwilling or unable to enter into a cooperative plan pursuant to this section, prior to the arbitration procedures required by subdivision (e) of Section 1214.1, the court or the county may request the continuation of negotiations with mediation assistance as mutually agreed upon and provided by the Administrative Director of the Courts and the California State Association of Counties.

(c) The Judicial Council shall develop performance measures and benchmarks to review the effectiveness of the cooperative superior court and county collection programs operating pursuant to this section. Each superior court and county shall jointly report to the Judicial Council, as provided by the Judicial Council, information requested in a reporting template on or before September 1, 2009, and annually thereafter. The Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature on December 31, 2009, and annually thereafter, on all of the following:

(1) The extent to which each court or county is following best practices for its collection program.

(2) The performance of each collection program.

(3) Any changes necessary to improve performance of collection programs statewide.

(d) The Judicial Council may, when the efficiency and effectiveness of the collection process may be improved, facilitate a joint collection program between superior courts, between counties, or between superior courts and counties.

(e) The Judicial Council may establish, by court rule, a program providing for the suspension and nonrenewal of a business and professional license if the holder of the license has unpaid fees, fines, forfeitures, penalties, and assessments imposed upon them under a court order. The Judicial Council may provide that some or all of the superior courts or counties participate in the program. Any program established by the Judicial Council shall ensure that the licensee receives adequate and appropriate notice of the proposed suspension or nonrenewal of his or her license and has an opportunity to contest the suspension or nonrenewal. The opportunity to contest may not require a court hearing.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Judicial Council, after consultation with the Franchise Tax Board with respect to collections under Section 19280 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, may provide for an amnesty program involving the collection of outstanding fees, fines, forfeitures, penalties, and assessments, applicable either statewide or within one or more counties. The amnesty program shall provide that some or all of the interest or collections costs imposed on outstanding fees, fines, forfeitures, penalties, and assessments may be waived if the remaining amounts due are paid within the amnesty period.

(Amended by Stats. 2008, Ch. 311, Sec. 28. Effective January 1, 2009.)