

Maricopa County Justice Courts Backlog Fines, Fees and Restitution Enforcement



The **Fines/Fees and Restitution Enforcement (FARE) Program** is a statewide initiative of the Arizona Judicial branch. The program was developed in 2003 to assist

Arizona courts with the compliance of monetary court orders. Courts are given the ability to assign outstanding debt associated to civil traffic, criminal traffic and criminal violations. The program is a public/private partnership between the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Motor Vehicle Division, Arizona Department of Revenue and a private vendor.

The 25 Justice Courts in the County handle a combined annual caseload of approximately 400,000 cases, and process a wide variety of limited jurisdiction case types. Justice Courts struggle with large amounts of uncollected monies from fines, fees, and restitution.

A collaborative effort between Court Technology Services (CTS), Justice Court Administration and the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts spawned an application titled "Fines, Fees, and Restitution Enforcement" (FARE) which institutes proactive collection and payment modules in the automated system.

FARE focuses on the backlog by establishing an online payment portal that allows individuals to more easily pay monies owed. FARE includes a Motor Vehicle Department notification component that resulted in individuals' driver's license being suspended for those who have reached a specific level of delinquency. FARE also transmits electronic case/financial data to the AOC. The data is processed by each agency and the system keeps various disparate database records synchronized as transactions occur, which is a key success factor for the project. This data sharing is one of the key factors of success.

