

HAVE A COURT CASE BUT CAN'T AFFORD THE FILING FEES?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

When you file papers in court, you may have to pay court filing fees. If you are worried about paying these fees, read the information below about getting a fee waiver.

ABOUT COURT FEES

Usually, when you file a document with the court, there is a fee to file the papers. There may also be other court costs once a case has started, like fees for making copies and getting them certified, court reporter fees, and others. These court fees can vary. Visit the statewide fee schedule at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/7646.htm> and check your local court's website to see if there are also local fees that may apply.

WHAT IF I CAN'T PAY THE COURT FEES?

If you're worried about paying these fees and court costs, you can ask the court for a "fee waiver." A fee waiver means that you do not have to pay the filing fees and other costs, or you may only have to pay part of the fees. You may also ask the court to let you pay your court fees in installments. You may qualify for a fee waiver if any of the following apply to you:

You are receiving public benefits, like Food Stamps, SSI, SSP, Medi-Cal, County Relief/General Assistance, IHHS, CalWORKS, Tribal TANF, or CAPI.

Your household income, before taxes, is very low.

You do not have enough money to pay the fees after you pay for your necessary monthly household expenses.

HOW CAN I GET A FEE WAIVER?

First, read Form [FW-001-INFO](#), *Information Sheet on Waiver of Court Fees and Costs*. Then, fill out two forms:



Form FW-001: Request to Waive Court Fees

On this form, you tell the court who you are, what job you have, if any, and what your income is. You may also have to write down all your expenses. Depending on your situation, you will have to fill out different parts of form FW-001, so read the instructions on the form carefully to make sure you fill out everything that is needed.



Form FW-003: Order on Court Fee Waiver

This form is mostly filled out by the court, but make sure you fill out your full name, address, and your case number, if you have one, and the case name, which is the name of the parties in the case.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find out more about court fees and fee waivers, with instructions and links to the forms, by visiting <https://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-feewaiver.htm>. You can also go to your local court's self-help center for assistance.