

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESTITUTION

This is information for you about restitution. It helps explain what restitution is, why it is deducted and how you can help. If you have questions, you are always welcome to contact Inmate Accounts.

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What is restitution?

- Restitution is money owed to the victim in your convicted case.
- It is ordered by the judge, at sentencing or at a separate hearing.
- The sentencing judge makes the final decision on the amount of restitution ordered.
- It covers out of pocket expenses such as medical bills, stolen cash/items, damage to home/car
- The Department of Corrections, per 42 Pa. C.S.9728, may collect money from your account if the court orders you to pay court costs, fines and restitution.
- 20% of any deposit into your account is taken (includes your employment/gifts from family and friends)

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Why is paying restitution important?

- The victim experienced a financial loss. (Medical bills, property damage, theft, etc.)
- Paying your restitution takes responsibility for your actions.
- This shows your effort to restore your victim.

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How does restitution work?

- DOC receives sentencing order/restitution order from the county
- You will receive a memo/notice that the deductions will begin in 15 days—20% of any deposit (employment or gifts) will be deducted from your account.
- DOC collects on one case—for one county—at a time.
- When money is deducted from your account, it is sent back to the county.
- The DOC may collect on ANY court ordered payments with correct documentation—county sentencings, child support, etc.
- The county will put your money towards your unpaid cases.
- All Crime Victims Compensation Fund (CVCF) Fees must be paid first, before any court costs, fines and restitution. CVCF funds must be paid prior to parole release.

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What can you do to help?

- You can pay additional money directly to the county for your restitution, fines and court costs.
- If you have multiple counties that are owed costs/fines/restitution, you can make additional payments towards additional counties (other than the one the DOC is collecting on).
- If you know you owe on multiple cases, you may request the county forward that information to the DOC to add it to your list of dockets owed on.
- Notify Accounts at your SCI if you are back as a parole violator so they may update your records.