



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Haven't paid your ticket yet?

Snohomish County District and Municipal Courts to give defendants a one month amnesty in which to clear up penalties

Defendants with fines and penalties assigned to collections are going to get a rare opportunity to clear up their unsettled debts.

During the month of March 2005 defendants will be granted amnesty from collection fees and interest if they pay the full amount of the fine/penalty plus all court costs, according to a spokesman for the Snohomish County District and Municipal Courts.

Officials hope the Courts can recover up to \$500,000 in unpaid fines.

The amnesty runs from March 1, 2005, until 12 p.m., March 31, 2005.

“This is the first time – and likely the only time - the Courts will offer an amnesty like this,” said William Fosbre, Snohomish County District Court Director.

All infractions, parking, and misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor criminal cases with delinquent fines or penalties are eligible except cases where the collection agency has filed for garnishment. Payment must be paid by cash, certified check, money order, debit or credit card.

Personal checks will not be accepted.

Fosbre said, “We decided to offer amnesty because a number of first time defendants have outstanding fines in collections. We believe more first timers aren't paying because of a ruling last summer by the State Supreme Court. That ruling overturned a State law that required a person's driver's license to be suspended if they failed to pay their traffic tickets.”

To help facilitate this process, the Courts will be sending 24,000 post-cards to defendants with fines in collections this week that informs them of this offer to waive collection fees and interest, Fosbre said.

The 2005 Washington state Legislature is expected to approve a measure that would address the state Supreme Court's concerns and once again allow the suspension of drivers' licenses if fines go unpaid.

People can contact any of the Courts listed here for more information:

- **Snohomish County District Court**
 - Cascade Division** 360-435-7708
 - Everett Division** 425-388-3172
 - Evergreen Division** 360-805-6703
 - South Division** 425-744-6907

- **Snohomish County Municipal Courts**
 - Edmonds Municipal Court** 425-771-0210
 - Everett Municipal Court** 425-257-8778
 - Lynnwood Municipal Court** 425-670-6668
 - Marysville Municipal Court** 360-651-5035

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For additional information, please contact:

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