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SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO LAUNCH ONLINE ABILITY TO PAY TOOL FOR TRAFFIC AND NON-TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS

Beginning June 6, New Service Will Allow Eligible Individuals with Citations Issued in Los Angeles County to Petition the Court Online for a Reduced or Modified Payment Plan

To improve access and convenience for court users, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County will launch a new online Ability to Pay (ATP) tool on June 6 for individuals seeking a reduced or modified payment plan for fines and fees incurred as a result of traffic and non-traffic infractions issued anywhere in Los Angeles County, Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner announced today.

"The Court continues to think critically about how to expand and improve upon providing timely and equal access to justice by implementing convenient remote service options to meet court users where they are," Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner said. "Providing access to the new online ATP tool will enable individuals to ask the Court to consider their ability to pay fines and fees resulting from traffic and non-traffic infractions with appropriate payment options based on their individual financial circumstances with greater ease and without having to visit a courthouse."

Launched in partnership with the Judicial Council of California, the online ATP tool will provide an expedient option for eligible individuals struggling with debt incurred as a result of a traffic or non-traffic infraction with the following requests without having to appear in person:

- Suspension of the fine, in whole or part.
- Creation of a payment plan (if available).
- Modification of an existing payment plan.
- Satisfaction of the fine through the completion of community service.

The online ATP tool for the Superior Court of Los Angeles County will be made available at MyCitations.courts.ca.gov beginning on June 6. At that time, anyone with a citation issued in Los Angeles County will have the ability to look up citations, ask questions about their options, and submit an online request to the Court for a possible reduction in the amount owed, a payment plan, or community service in lieu of payment.

The online ATP tool will require requestors to provide documentation to support a request for an ATP determination, such as proof of public benefits, fixed monthly payments, pay stubs, bank statements or work or family obligations. An online chat tool will also be available to provide guidance to court users for some of the most frequently asked questions.

Once an online ATP request is filed, the Court will make a ruling on whether the individual meets certain criteria for a reduced or modified payment plan and will notify the requestor electronically. This new online ATP tool supplements the Court's existing <u>Ability-to-Pay request options</u>, which include an in-person petition option at the time of adjudication or the submission of a written petition via U.S. mail.

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