

## PRESS RELEASE

Beginning October 1, 2017, individuals with traffic-related fines in multiple jurisdictions in King County will have an easier and less expensive way to pay court-mandated fines from multiple courts through the new Unified Payment (UP) Program. This new program also lifts the hold on a person's driver's license before the fines are completely paid off.

"This is a great program that will allow people a convenient, low-cost way to quickly lift the hold on their driver's license," said LaTricia Kinlow, Court Administrator for the Tukwila Municipal Court. "Suspended licenses are a huge barrier to employment and other obligations and often lead to even more fines and court appearances. With this program, it's one stop shopping for people who have fines in more than one court, and as soon as they make their first payment we lift the hold on their license."

The program is a collaboration between the district and municipal courts in King County. The UP Program allows people with fines in multiple jurisdictions in King County the ability to pay off their obligations without going to a collection agency. Because the program only charges a flat fee of \$7.00 per month, individuals save costs that would have been accrued through a collection agency, which assesses collection fees and compounding interest as high as 19%. Monthly payments as low as \$25 are accepted and the agency will work with court customers to determine an appropriate amount on an individual basis.

"Court fines can have a snowballing effect that set people up for failure; particularly people with little economic means," commented Karen Campbell, Senior Attorney, Northwest Justice Project Vancouver, and an appointee to the committee created by the Washington State Legislature to work on the creation of a statewide relicensing program. "The King County UP Program represents a positive first step toward reducing barriers faced by low income individuals. While we continue to work toward a statewide program to assist low income individuals throughout Washington, and appreciate the work by the Attorney General on that project, we are equally appreciative of those at the local level, like those in King County, who are proactively working toward this goal."

In 2016, 66,000 people in King County had court fines that could lead to automatic suspension of their driver's license. The average fine obligation for these individuals was \$315. Many of these individuals have multiple fines in multiple courts, which required two or more separate payment plans for each court, often through a collection agency charging both interest and collection fees.

"The courts in King County have a responsibility to administer justice every day. This program collectively shows the mercy side of the court, and I am proud to be a part of this effort to provide another service to our customers. We want our customers to know that we can and do dispense justice in a merciful way," said Kinlow.

Participating courts include King County District Court and the municipal courts of Algona, Auburn, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Des Moines, Duvall, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Tukwila, Woodinville, and Yarrow Point. Each of these courts operate their own relicensing programs that allow individuals with fines in their court to participate in similar payment programs and/or payment alternatives.

“We are aware and excited about the effort towards a statewide consolidated payment program, and we look forward to hearing what the committee proposes. We just believe it is better for our customers if we start now rather than later,” said Judge Kimberly Walden, presiding judge of the Tukwila Municipal Court.



## King County District and Municipal Courts

# UNIFIED PAYMENT (UP) PROGRAM

Beginning October 1, 2017, individuals with traffic-related fines in multiple jurisdictions in King County will have an easier and less expensive way to pay court-mandated fines through the new Unified Payment (UP) Program. This program also lifts the hold on a person's driver's license before the fines are paid in full.

### How it works

1. Court customers with suspended licenses due to failure to respond/pay contact a court where they have fines to receive the necessary documentation needed in order to complete the online application.
2. Using the documentation provided by the court, the customer will submit an online application.
3. The payment agency works with individuals to determine a realistic payment plan, as low as \$25.00 per month, which includes a \$7.00 fee.
4. Once the payment agency receives the first installment, participating courts will be notified and they will notify the Washington State Department of Licensing that the hold can be removed from the person's driver's license.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***Why is this program needed? Shouldn't people just pay their fines?***

Court fines can be a barrier for people, particularly those with limited economic means. In 2016, 66,000 people in King County had court fines that could have led to automatic suspension of their driver's license. Because fines are often collected through a collection agency, the baseline fines can grow exponentially due to interest and collection fees. This program allows people to pay back the fines without collection and interest fees, and lifts the hold on the license at the first payment. Through the traditional collection agency process, the hold is not lifted until all fines are recovered.

#### ***What about people with fines in only one court?***

All District and Municipal Courts in King County operate relicensing programs that have similar payment and relicensing opportunities for individual court customers. This plan allows a consolidated payment plan for people with fines in multiple courts in King County. People with fines in only one jurisdiction should contact that court for information on their relicensing program.

#### ***What if someone stops paying?***

If a customer defaults on the UP Program, the payment agency sends a notice to the court, which then removes the case from the program. At that point, the court may assign the case to the collection agency and notify the Washington Department of Licensing to issue a hold on the license.

## FAQ continued

### **Do I have to contact each court?**

No. You can go to any King County District or Municipal Court to get a copy of your case history and the UP Program information.

### **Who is the payment agency?**

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson (LGBS), LLP.

### **What courts are participating in the UP Program?**

Participating courts include King County District Court and the Municipal Courts of Algona, Auburn, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Tukwila, Woodinville and Yarrow Point.

### **Can I use the UP Program to pay a fine in another county?**

No. At this time this program is only available in King County courts.

### **Why is there a \$7.00 monthly fee?**

### **Is that really less expensive than a collection agency?**

The \$7.00 monthly fee pays for LGBS to administer the UP Program. They work directly with clients to identify a customized payment plan, and interact with the courts to make the program successful. See the examples below for a breakdown comparing the UP Program with a collection agency.

#### **REGULAR COLLECTION COSTS**

<b>36 Equal Monthly Payments of \$39.53 each</b>	
Violation	\$1,000.00
Collection Fee (19%)	190.00
Interest during repayment period (12%)	232.86
Set-up Fee	–
Monthly Fees	–
<b>Total that consumer will pay</b>	<b>\$1,422.86</b>

<b>56 Equal Monthly Payments of \$24.99 each</b>	
Violation	\$1,000.00
Collection Fee (19%)	190.00
Interest during repayment period (12%)	433.98
Set-up Fee	–
Monthly Fees	–
<b>Total that consumer will pay</b>	<b>\$1,623.98</b>

#### **PROPOSED UP PROGRAM**

<b>36 Equal Monthly Payments of \$34.78 each</b>	
Violation	\$1,000.00
Collection Fee (0%)	–
Interest during repayment period (0%)	–
Set-up Fee	–
Monthly Fees (\$7.00/month)	252.00
<b>Total consumer will pay</b>	<b>\$1,252.00</b>

<b>56 Equal Monthly Payments of \$24.86 each</b>	
Violation	\$1,000.00
Collection Fee (0%)	–
Interest during repayment period (0%)	–
Set-up Fee	–
Monthly Fees (\$7.00/month)	392.00
<b>Total consumer will pay</b>	<b>\$1,392.00</b>

**For more information, please contact 206-433-1840.**



## King County District and Municipal Courts

# UNIFIED PAYMENT (UP) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Beginning October 1, 2017, individuals with traffic-related fines in multiple jurisdictions in King County will have an easier and less expensive way to pay court-mandated fines through the new Unified Payment (UP) Program. This program also lifts the hold on a person's driver's license before the fines are paid in full.

### Participation Requirements

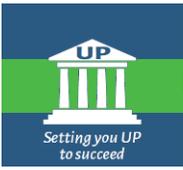
1. Must have two or more tickets in two or more courts in King County.
2. Tickets must have a hold or potential hold against the individual's drivers license.
3. Must have an ability to pay (those without the ability to pay should contact the court in which the ticket is filed).
4. Must take care of any outstanding warrants issued by a court in King County.

### Applying for the Program

A program application can be obtained by contacting the payment agency at 1-844-544-5242, online at [www.KingCountyUP.com](http://www.KingCountyUP.com), or by contacting any court of limited jurisdiction within King County.

Algona (Pacific)	PAC	253-929-1140	Maple Valley (Kent)	KEM	253-856-5730
Auburn (King County)	AUM/KCD	206-205-9200	Medina (Kirkland)	KIM	425-587-3160
Bellevue (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200	Mercer Island	MIS	206-275-7604
Black Diamond	BDM	360-886-7784	Newcastle (Mercer Island)	MIS	206-275-7604
Bothell	BTM	425-487-5587	Normandy Park (Des Moines)	NPP	206-878-4597
Burien (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200	North Bend (Issaquah)	IQM	425-837-3170
Carnation (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200	Pacific	PAC	253-929-1140
Clyde Hill (Kirkland)	KIM	425-587-3160	Redmond (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200
Des Moines	DMM	206-878-4597	Renton	REM	425-430-6550
Duvall (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200	Sammamish (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200
Enumclaw	ECM	360-825-7771	SeaTac	STM	206-973-4610
Federal Way	FWM	253-835-3000	Seattle	SMC	206-684-5600
Hunts Point (Kirkland)	KIM	425-587-3160	Shoreline (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200
Issaquah	IQM	425-837-3170	Skykomish (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200
Kenmore (King County)	KCD	206-205-9200	Snoqualmie (Issaquah)	IQM	206-205-9200
Kent	KEM	253-856-5730	Tukwila	TKM	206-433-1840
King County	KCD	206-205-9200	Woodinville (Kirkland)	KIM	425-587-3160
Kirkland	KIM	425-587-3160	Yarrow Point (Kirkland)	KIM	425-587-3160
Lake Forest Park	LFM	206-364-7711			

*For more information, please contact any of the courts listed above or call 206-433-1840.*



# UNIFIED PAYMENT (UP) PROGRAM

## COVER SHEET

(Attach to DCH and give to customer)

Use the highlighted case information on the attached document to submit your online application via this website: [www.KingCountyUP.com](http://www.KingCountyUP.com). Courts will be notified to remove the hold from your license **AFTER** your first payment is processed by the payment agency. You can make your first payment and schedule re-occurring payments online. If you find that you need assistance with processing your initial payment, please call the payment agency (Linebarger) at 844-544-5242.

**Participation Requirements**

1. Must have 1 ticket in a King County District or Municipal Court.
2. Tickets must have a hold or potential hold against the individual's drivers license.
3. Must have an ability to pay (those without the ability to pay should contact the court in which the ticket is filed).
4. Must take care of any outstanding warrants issued by a court in King County.

### HOW TO READ YOUR DEFENDANT CASE HISTORY (DCH)

Case Number (9 digits/characters)

Court (3 Ltrs)

Amount Owed to the Court for this case

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DN2002MI Defendant Case History (DCH)      TUKWILA MUNICIPAL      LRK 4 of 8
Case: _____ Csh: _____ Pty: _____ StId: _____
Name: TEST, CASE                          NmCd: IN 962 05954
<More                                     CONFIDENTIAL--NOT FOR RELEASE
True Name: TEST, CASE                      IN 962 05954           16 Cases
AKA's:
Print: N
S N Case      LEA Ty Crt Loc Short Title      Next Hearing C Balance
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- TEST00003 WSP IT KCD      NO VALID OPER LICENSE WITH      150.00
- TEST00999 KCP CN KCD      PROTECTION ORDER VIOLATION
- TEST00001 WSP CT KCD      EXCEED MAXIMUM SPD SCHOOL/P 12/30/99 A 136.00
      INATTENTION TO DRIVING
      OP MOT VEH W/OUT INSURANCE
  
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PERCENTAGES DATA FROM LGBS  
As of 4/30/2018

Data Based on Accounts (Cases)		
	#	%
Total Accounts Assigned	2863	
Total Accounts Cancelled	972	34%
Total Accounts Cancelled due to Non-Payment	506	18%
Total Accounts Not Eligible for UP	466	16%
Accounts in Payment Default (Less than 60 days)	276	10%
Accounts Paid In Full	37	1%
Total Open (Current) Accounts	1605	56%

Data Based on Defendants		
	#	\$\$\$
Total Defendants Assigned	482	\$ 1,354,593.00
Total Defendants Cancelled	242	\$ 466,878.00
Total Defendants Cancelled Due to Non-Payment	86	\$ 235,659.00
Total Defendants Not Eligible for UP	198	\$ 220,125.00
Number of Defendants in Payment Default (Less than 60 days)	56	\$ 132,790.00
Number of Defendants Paid In Full	24	\$ 8,912.00
Total Defendants Current	306	\$ 754,925.00
Total Paid to Courts	\$ 29,144.00	
Total Fees Retained by LGBS	\$ 6,351.00	