

PRESS RELEASE

**For release
Saturday, September 26, 2009**

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COURT OFFERS CHANCE TO AVOID PENALTIES BY PAYING FINES NOW

Persons still owing fines and fees on traffic, misdemeanor and felony cases in Tazewell County will have the opportunity to avoid penalties, late fees, arrest or other sanctions if the outstanding debt is paid on or before December 1, 2009.

Presiding Judge Scott A. Shore issued an administrative order on Friday, September 25, 2009 implementing an amnesty program for collection of delinquent fines and fees in criminal cases. The order indicates that the Tazewell County courts are offering the program as part of a collaborative effort to collect delinquent fines, fees and restitution still owed in cases prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Office.

The amnesty program allows persons still owing fines, fees and restitution in a traffic, misdemeanor or felony case to avoid any additional penalties and punishment if that outstanding debt is paid on or before December 1, 2009.

Those who fail to pay delinquent fines on or before December 1, 2009 will be subject to collections enforcement. Efforts to collect delinquent fines may include the following:

- Arrest and prosecution
- Jail Sentence for non-compliance
- Contempt of Court
- Added interest charges
- Added debt collection fees
- Loss of driver's license
- Negative credit reporting

Any person who pays their delinquent fines, fees and restitution on or before December 1, 2009 can avoid these penalties. Balance due may be confirmed by calling (309) 477-2214 or online at www.judici.com. Payments may be made in person at the Office of Pam Gardner, Tazewell County Circuit Clerk, on the second floor of the Courthouse or mailed to the Circuit Clerk at 342 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554. Payments may also be made online at www.IllinoisEPay.com. (Click on "Make a Payment;" enter "Tazewell County;" select "Circuit Clerk") Persons paying by mail should not send cash and should include their case number to ensure payment is properly applied.