

Financial Compliance Committee Members

Michelle Anderson, County Auditor
Hannah Eisner, Civil ASA
Hon. Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk/Committee Chair
Pablo Eves, Civil ASA/Committee Secretary
Hon. Kevin Fitzgerald, Judge
Hon. Lee Ann Hill, Judge
Terry Lindberg, County Administrator
Phyllis Nelson, Circuit Clerk Chief Deputy
Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator

The Financial Compliance Committee (hereinafter referred to as Committee) met twice since its inception to respond to the CJCC Executive Committee's initial charge:

1. Research methods to increase the percentage of collected funds verses uncollectible accounts in criminal and child support cases
2. Make recommendations on the acceptance of credit card payments for fines, fees and restitution
3. Make recommendations about the effectiveness of third-party collection agencies and the appropriate timeframe to engage such services
4. Research the use of suspension of driver's licenses, warrants or pay or appear hearings to increase collections

Response

1 & 3:

McLean County currently uses Harris & Harris (hereinafter referred to as H&H) for contingency collections.

Age of debt and debt type are important key factors in collection efforts. Of all case types, CF cases are the most difficult to collect. The bulk of the placements being sent from McLean County to H&H are old CF cases – which are extremely difficult to collect.

H&H has been touting their higher collection rate with Peoria County. Per H&H, this is due to a forward flow of cases being released to H&H much more quickly than McLean; and focus being centered on the more collectable case types - TR, CM, and DT.

H&H recommends McLean send to them a file of every delinquent case so they could perform analytics and report back with a strategy for account placements and forecasts of anticipated recovery performance. The Committee recommends that the report be generated and submitted to H&H. Clerk Everhart has conferred with H&H on what is needed in the report and will be requesting that IT generate the report.

Note: IT was asked to explore the possibility of EJS be modified so that when a client comes in to pay, the Circuit Clerk can click once to run a report that would pull all the case numbers and amounts still owed by that person. This would allow the Circuit Clerk to provide the list to the client and ask the client if he/she wishes to make additional payments on the outstanding amounts.

2:

The Committee recommends the acceptance of credit/debit cards for payment of fines, fees, costs.

An agreement between GovPayEXP and the Clerk's office was reviewed and approved by Ms. Eisner. The agreement will be submitted to the County Board on December 15th for approval.

GovPayEXP is the pioneer of governmental credit card processing with over 1,400 agencies in 33 states. They process Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, and American Express. Cook, Will, McHenry, Madison, and Rock Island are some of the Illinois counties using GovPayEXP's card processing services.

4:

Consensus of the Committee was reached on the following

- Eliminate Pay-or-Appeal dates
- Adopt a standard payment plan Order and protocol for TR & CM cases being referred to collections
- If a payment is missed, the case is referred to H&H. (It was determined that this approach is not applicable to DT and CF cases.)

Note: Possible changes in Supreme Court Article V Rules allowing suspensions on TR cases may allow the avoidance of or the setting aside of a bulk of collections on TR cases; however, a process for non-suspension cases would still be needed.