

Community Service in Lieu of Paying Fines & Cost Information Sheet

In compliance with Virginia Code § 19.2-354(C) the Hampton Circuit Court has established a program to allow defendants to perform community service hours in lieu of paying fines and costs. Community Service may only be applied to fines and costs. **Restitution that is Ordered CANNOT be offset by community service and MUST be paid to the Clerk's Office.**

Applying for this program does **not** guarantee acceptance into this program. If approved, you must locate a non-profit that will allow you to perform this service. Upon completion of hours, you must submit your completed hours on Company letterhead and must be signed by a supervisor. We will need contact information for said non-profit to verify your hours.

Once your hours are received by the Court, we will give you credit at a rate of \$12.77 an hour. (Ex. 40 hours of community service x \$12.77 an hour = \$510.80 in credit).

To be eligible for this program, you must meet certain criteria outlined in the Code of Virginia. Those criteria are as follows:

1. You have not yet started your sentence (such as a withheld finding) or have finished your sentence. It should be noted, if a condition of your withheld finding was to do community service, the community service hours going towards fulfilling that condition cannot also go towards paying your fines and costs.
2. You are part of a Community Corrections Alternative Program which is defined in § 19.2-316.4.
3. You are part of a State Work Release Program which is defined in § 53.1-60
4. You are part of a Local Prisoner Workforce which is defined in § 53.1-128
5. You are part of a Local Work Release Program which is defined in § 53.1-131
6. You are part of a Prisoner Work by Judicial Order Program which is defined in § 53.1-129
7. You are part of a Prisoner Public Works Project which is defined in § 53.1-59

Please Note: Pursuant to Virginia Code § 19.2-354(c)(ii) and *Vanmeter v. Commonwealth*, 80 Va. App. 324 (2024), inmates are not entitled to offset fines or costs with community-service credits for work performed for the Virginia Department of Corrections at the prisons that house them.

If you believe you are eligible for this program, please fill out an application in the Clerks Office. Proof of being in a program outlined in numbers 2-7 above will be required upon applying.