

## Your options with SPER

The State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) collects and enforces unpaid infringement notices and court ordered fines.

### What should I do if I get an infringement notice fine?

There are three options:

- You can pay your fine in full within 28 days or within the time allowed by the issuing agency.
- If it is over the threshold amount, you can pay your fine in instalments through a voluntary instalment plan. You must arrange this payment option with the agency that issued the fine (refer to the voluntary instalment plans factsheet).
- If you disagree with an infringement notice fine, you may be eligible to go to court to have the matter heard.

### What if I don't pay my infringement notice fine?

If an infringement notice fine is not paid within the given time (usually 28 days), it becomes overdue. The fine can then be registered with SPER and you are charged a fee which is added to the fine. Because of this fee, it costs you more to pay an overdue infringement notice fine.

### What should I do if I get a court ordered fine from a judge or magistrate?

- You can pay your fine in full at the court once the order has been made by the judge or magistrate.
- The judge or magistrate may not order that you have a period of time to pay the fine, but that it is sent to SPER immediately. Contact SPER for your options.
- The judge or magistrate may order that you pay the fine within a set period of time. Some orders can be sent to SPER within their time to pay. You either pay the court or SPER.
- If you disagree with a court order, you may be able to go back to court and have the matter re-heard (refer to the Queensland Courts *Re-hearings, Re-openings and Appeals* factsheet).

### What happens when my fine is sent to SPER?

- SPER sends you an enforcement order (and your SPER party identification number). This notice provides you with the time you have to pay the outstanding amount (minimum 28 days).
- You can contact SPER to arrange part-payments through an **instalment plan** (this is different to a voluntary instalment plan).
- If you choose to pay your fine, you receive an instalment payment notice telling you how much you pay every week/fortnight/month, and on what dates.
- Use your instalment payment notice to keep track of when you have to make payments.
- If you receive a Centrelink payment, you may be able to have a certain amount deducted every fortnight and sent directly to SPER. This is called a Centrepay deduction. You must contact SPER about this option.
- You may be able to perform unpaid community service instead of paying your fine. SPER can advise if you are eligible for this option.
- You may be eligible for a good behaviour order if you have medical or psychiatric reasons preventing you from doing community service work or paying the outstanding amount.

If your circumstances prevent you from being able to take up any of the above options, please let us know so that we can help you to find another way to pay your fine.

### For more information

Visit [www.sper.qld.gov.au](http://www.sper.qld.gov.au) or call us on 1300 365 635, Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:45pm.