

AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

TO: All System and Related Personnel
All Interested Parties

FROM: Thomas B. Darr
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

Subject: Acts 40 and 44 of 2017 – Changes in Existing JCS/ATJ/CJEA Surcharge

Date: November 1, 2017

Acts 40 and 44 of 2017, recently signed by the Governor, make immediate changes to the Judicial Computer System/Access to Justice/Criminal Justice Enhancement Account (JCS/ATJ/CJEA) surcharge.

Below is a summary of the changes:

1. The JCS/ATJ/CJEA surcharge is increased from \$35.50 to **\$40.25** on all filings *except* those resulting from a summary traffic offense. The increase of \$4.75 is detailed below.
 - a. The portion of the surcharge distributed to the Criminal Justice Enhancement Account (CJEA) is increased by 25 cents (from \$2.25 to \$2.50).
 - b. The surcharge is increased by \$2.50, which will be distributed to the Office of Attorney General for general government operations.
 - c. The surcharge is increased by \$2.00, which will be distributed to the Access to Justice Account (ATJ).
 - d. The surcharge will **remain at \$40.25 through December 31, 2020.**

2. The JCS/ATJ surcharge for filings resulting from a traffic citation charging an offense under Title 75 (relating to vehicles) which is classified as a summary offense under a state statute or local ordinance is increased from \$10.00 to **\$22.00**. The increase of \$12.00 is detailed below.
 - a. The surcharge is increased by \$2.00, which will be distributed to the Access to Justice Account.
 - b. The surcharge is increased by \$10, which is earmarked for Judiciary operations.
 - c. The surcharge will **remain \$22.00 through December 31, 2020.**

These changes took effect immediately on October 30, 2017 (see attached chart).

We realize that some agencies may have an inventory of citations, and therefore a 90-day grace period has been approved during which time citations with the lower surcharge amount may be used, **provided** the incorrect amount (\$35.50/\$10.00) is crossed out and the correct amount (\$40.25/\$22.00) is written on the citation. Law enforcement officers may use old citations through **January 29, 2018**; thereafter, only the new citations with the correct pre-printed amount (\$40.25/\$22.00) shall be accepted for filing.

The Supreme Court will issue revised financial regulations to reflect these changes in rates and sunset dates. The revised regulations will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Notice of the changes in the amounts of these fees is being provided for the purpose of promoting general awareness and understanding of the changes to facilitate compliance. **Please be aware that these changes are unrelated to the annual increases in court costs made under Act 96 of 2010.**

Pursuant to the authority under 42 Pa.C.S. § 3502(a) to promulgate regulations specifying the time and manner of remittance of this fee by county staff, all collectors of the fee must be in compliance with these regulations on or before November 30, 2017. This implementation period is necessary to allow all collectors of the fee sufficient time to make the necessary adjustments to existing automated systems and protocols.

If we may be of assistance with regard to your implementation of Acts 40 and 44 of 2017, please contact David Price, Esq., at (717) 231-3300 ext. 3293, or Daryl Walker, Esq., at (717) 231-3300 ext. 3319.

Attachment – Fee Chart

cc: Rick Steele
David Price, Esq.
Daryl Walker, Esq.
Veronica Miller, Esq.

Unified Judicial System
Changes in Existing JCS/ATJ/CJEA/JCPS Surcharges Per Acts 40
and 44 of 2017
Effective October 30, 2017

Filings Excluding Traffic Citations

<u>Fee/Surcharge</u>	<u>Prior</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>10/30/2017</u>
JCS	\$8.00	\$8.00
ATJ	\$4.00	\$6.00
CJEA	\$2.25	\$2.50
JCPS	\$21.25	\$21.25
<u>OAG</u> 1/	<u>N/A</u>	<u>\$2.50</u>
Total	\$35.50	\$40.25

Filings Applicable to Traffic Citations

<u>Fee/Surcharge</u>	<u>Prior</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>10/30/2017</u>
JCS	\$8.00	\$8.00
ATJ	\$2.00	\$4.00
<u>JCPS</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total	\$10.00	\$22.00

1/ New permanent surcharge created by Act 40 of 2017 appropriated to the Office of Attorney General.