

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

Memorandum

TO: All System and Related Personnel

FROM: Zygmunt A. Pines, Esq.
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

and

Ricki Steele, Chief
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Revenue
Bureau of Imaging and Document Management
Imaging Support and Banking Operations Division

**SUBJECT: Calendar Year 2015 Court Cost Increases
Effective January 1, 2015**

DATE: November 21, 2014

Act 96 of 2010 extends the requirement for annual court cost increases first provided for by Act 167 of 1992, and more recently by Act 113 of 2001. The annual increases are based upon the increases in the Consumer Price Index. The applicable increase for this period is 1.5%. Enclosed are regulations setting forth the costs to be charged pursuant to the act, along with the amounts payable to the Commonwealth, **during calendar year 2015.**

Also enclosed is a payment distribution table allocating the **calendar year 2015 court costs** between the state and county. The state's allocated share consists of costs established under prior law and the additional costs established by Act 167 of 1992, both adjusted by the annual inflators. The increased costs apply to all citations and cases **filed** on or after January 1.

In addition to adjusting the costs in keeping with the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, the regulation amounts have been rounded to the next fifty cents (\$0.50) for purposes of accounting and operational efficiency. (See, Supreme Court Order No. 429, Judicial Administrative Docket, authorizing the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania to promulgate regulations to implement the cost schedule pursuant to Act 96 of 2010.)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Barbara Sites of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts at (717) 231-3300, extension 4083, or Dawn Sweger at (717) 787-8335 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue, Bureau of Imaging and Document Management.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.

Enclosures

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: PROMULGATION OF FINANCIAL
REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO 42 Pa.C.S.
§ 3502(a)

: No. 429
: Judicial Administration Docket

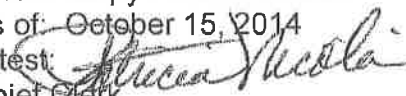
ORDER

PER CURIAM:

And now, this 15th day of October, 2014, it is *Ordered* pursuant to Article V, Section 10(c) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and Section 3502(a) of the Judicial Code, 42 Pa.C.S. § 3502(a), that the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania is authorized to promulgate the attached Financial Regulations. The costs outlined in the Financial Regulations are effective as of **January 1, 2015**.

To the extent that notice of proposed rule-making may be required by Pa.R.J.A. No.103, the immediate promulgation of the regulations is hereby found to be in the interests of efficient administration.

This Order is to be processed in accordance with Pa.R.J.A. No. 103(b) and is effective immediately.

A True Copy Patricia Nicola
As of: October 15, 2014
Attest: 
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

TITLE 204. JUDICIAL SYSTEM GENERAL PROVISIONS
PART II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Subchapter K. COSTS, FINES AND FEES

§ 29.401. Scope.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, pursuant to Art. V, § 10 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and 42 Pa.C.S. § 1721, has authorized by Administrative Order, the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania to promulgate regulations relating to the accounting methods to be utilized in connection with the collection of fees and costs charged and collected by prothonotaries, and clerks of courts of all courts of common pleas, or by any officials designated to perform the functions thereof, as well as by the minor judiciary, including magisterial district judges, and judges and staff of all divisions of the Philadelphia Municipal Court.

Under authority of said Administrative Order and pursuant to the authority vested in the governing authority under 42 Pa.C.S. § 3502(a) of the Judicial Code, the following regulations are adopted to implement Act 96 of 2010, 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 1725.1(f) and 3571(c)(4)(as amended).

§ 29.402. 42 Pa.C.S. § 1725.1. Costs.

(a) Civil cases. - **In calendar year 2015**, the costs to be charged by magisterial district judges in every civil case, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall be as follows:

(1) Actions involving \$500 or less	\$51.00
(2) Actions involving more than \$500 but not more than \$2,000	\$68.00
(3) Actions involving more than \$2,000 but not more than \$4,000	\$84.50
(4) Actions involving between \$4,001 and \$12,000	\$127.00
(5) Landlord-tenant actions involving less than \$2,000	\$76.50
(6) Landlord-tenant actions involving more than \$2,000 but not more than \$4,000	\$93.00
(7) Landlord-tenant actions involving more than \$4,000 but not more than \$12,000	\$127.00
(8) Order of execution.....	\$38.50
(9) Objection to levy.....	\$17.00

- (10) Reinstatement of complaint \$8.50
- (11) Entering Transcript on Appeal or Certiorari..... \$4.50

Said costs shall not include, however, the cost of postage and registered mail which shall be borne by the plaintiff.

(a.1) Custody cases. – **In calendar year 2015**, the cost (in addition to the cost provided by general rule) to be charged by the court of common pleas shall be as follows:

- (1) Custody cases, except as provided in section 1725(c)(2)(v)..... \$8.00

(b) Criminal cases. - **In calendar year 2015**, the costs to be charged by the minor judiciary or by the court of common pleas where appropriate in every criminal case, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall be as follows:

- (1) Summary conviction, except motor vehicle cases..... \$48.50
- (2) Summary conviction, motor vehicle cases, other than paragraph (3) \$38.50
- (3) Summary conviction, motor vehicle cases, hearing demanded \$46.50
- (4) Misdemeanor \$55.00
- (5) Felony \$63.50

Such costs shall not include, however, the cost of postage and registered mail which shall be paid by the defendant upon conviction.

(c) Unclassified costs or charges. - **In calendar year 2015**, the costs to be charged by the minor judiciary in the following instances not readily classifiable shall be as follows:

- (1) Entering transcript of judgment from another member of the minor judiciary \$8.50
- (2) Marrying each couple, making record thereof, and certificate to the parties \$42.50
- (3) Granting emergency relief pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to protection from abuse) \$17.00
- (4) Issuing a search warrant (except as provided in

subsection (d)	\$17.00
(5) Any other issuance not otherwise provided in this subsection	\$17.00

§ 29.403 42 Pa.C.S. § 3571.

In calendar year 2015, Commonwealth portion of fines, etc.

(c) Costs in magisterial district judge proceedings.

(2) Amounts payable to the Commonwealth:

(i) Summary conviction, except motor vehicle cases.....	\$17.10
(ii) Summary conviction, motor vehicle cases other than subparagraph (iii)	\$17.10
(iii) Summary conviction, motor vehicle cases, hearing demanded	\$17.10
(iv) Misdemeanor	\$22.00
(v) Felony	\$33.85
(vi) Assumpsit or trespass involving:	
(A) \$500 or less.....	\$21.25
(B) More than \$500 but not more than \$2,000	\$34.00
(C) More than \$2,000 but not more than \$4,000.....	\$50.70
(D) Between \$4,001 and \$12,000	\$84.65
(vii) Landlord-tenant proceeding involving:	
(A) \$2,000 or less.....	\$34.00
(B) More than \$2,000 but not more than \$4,000	\$42.25
(C) More than \$4,000 but not more than \$12,000.....	\$59.25
(viii) Objection to levy.....	\$8.50
(ix) Order of execution.....	\$25.65
(x) Issuing a search warrant (except as provided in section 1725.1(d)(relating to costs)).....	\$11.90

- (xi) Order of possession..... \$15.00
- (xii) Custody cases (except as provided in section 1725(c)(2)(v))..... \$6.40

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: PROMULGATION OF CONSUMER
PRICE INDEX PURSUANT TO 42 Pa.C.S. §§
1725.1(f) and 3571(c)(4)

: No. 428
: Judicial Administration Docket


ORDER

PER CURIAM:

And now, this 15th day of October, 2014, it is *Ordered* pursuant to Article V, Section 10(c) of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and Section 3502(a) of the Judicial Code, 42 Pa.C.S. § 3502(a), that the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania is authorized to obtain and publish in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2013 as required by Act 96 of 2010, 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 1725.1(f) and 3571(c)(4)(as amended).

A True Copy Patricia Nicola

As of: October 15, 2014

Attest: 

Chief Clerk

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Annex A
TITLE 204. JUDICIAL SYSTEM GENERAL PROVISIONS
PART II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Subchapter K. COSTS, FINES AND FEES

§ 29.401a. Consumer Price Index-costs and fines.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 10 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, and 42 Pa.C.S. § 1721, the Supreme Court has authorized the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania to obtain and publish in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on or before November 30 the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2013 as required by Act 96 of 2010, 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 1725.1(f) and 3571(c)(4)(as amended). See, No. 428 Judicial Administration Docket.

The Court Administrator of Pennsylvania reports that the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, for calendar year **2013** was 1.5% percent. (See, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Series CUUROOOSAQ, February 20, 2014.)

2015 COURT COSTS *
STATE/COUNTY PAYMENT DISTRIBUTION

<u>Civil/Criminal/Other</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>County Cost</u>	<u>State Cost Prior Law</u>	<u>Act 167 of 1992</u>
1. Summary conviction, except motor vehicle cases	48.50	31.40	8.55	8.55
2. Summary conviction, motor vehicle cases other than subparagraph (3)	38.50	21.40	8.55	8.55
3. Summary conviction, motor vehicle cases, hearing demanded	46.50	29.40	8.55	8.55
4. Misdemeanor	55.00	33.00	11.85	10.15
5. Felony	63.50	29.65	13.55	20.30
6. Assumpsit or Trespass involving:				
A) \$100 or less	51.00	29.75	4.25	17.00
B) \$101 through \$300	51.00	29.75	8.50	12.75
C) \$301 through \$500	51.00	29.75	12.75	8.50
D) \$501 through \$2,000	68.00	34.00	17.00	17.00
E) \$2,001 through \$4,000	84.50	33.80	16.90	33.80
F) More than \$4,000	127.00	42.35	0.00	84.65
7. Landlord-tenant proceeding involving:				
A) \$2,000 or less	76.50	42.50	17.00	17.00
B) \$2,001 through \$4,000	93.00	50.75	16.90	25.35
C) More than \$4,000	127.00	67.75	0.00	59.25
8. Objection to Levy	17.00	8.50	8.50	0.00

2015 COURT COSTS *
STATE/COUNTY PAYMENT DISTRIBUTION

<u>Civil/Criminal/Other</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>County Cost</u>	<u>State Cost</u>	
			<u>Prior Law</u>	<u>Act 167 of 1992</u>
9. Order of Execution	38.50	12.85	17.10	8.55
10. Reinstatement of Complaint	8.50	8.50	0.00	0.00
11. Transcript	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00
12. Entering transcript of judgment from another member of the minor judiciary	8.50	8.50	0.00	0.00
13. Marrying each couple, making record thereof, and certificate to the parties	42.50	42.50	0.00	0.00
14. Granting emergency relief	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.00
15. Issuing a Search Warrant	17.00	5.10	11.90	0.00
16. Any other issuance not otherwise provided	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.00
17. Custody cases, except as provided in 42 Pa.C.S. Section 1725(c)(2)(v)	8.00	1.60	6.40**	0.00

* The costs shown reflect the cost table enacted by Act 167 of 1992 adjusted by the annual increases, beginning January 1, 1994, provided by that act and subsequent acts to reflect the inflationary changes. Act 113 of 2001 authorized continuation of the annual increases beginning in 2002, and Act 96 of 2010 further extends the requirement for annual increases beginning January 1, 2011 through January 1, 2025.

**Act 119 of 1996.