

The Cycle Of Court Debt

IT STARTS WITH A TICKET...

It starts with a ticket... And before you know it, you are caught in a cycle of accumulating debt. Each year thousands of Texans find themselves behind bars for fine-only offenses, even though it is illegal to be jailed for the inability to pay fines and fees. The repercussions of this cycle impact families, communities, and the government.



1

You receive a traffic ticket or other minor citation.



2

You are not able to pay the citation, and the debt adds up from additional fees.

5a

If you stop driving, you will likely lose your job, making you even less able to pay your citations. Without a car, your options for work are little to none in many areas.

CLASSIFIEDS		
JOB	STATUS	REASON
✓	✓	✓
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✗

3

If a ticket is not paid:

You receive a hold on your license and registration until your debts are paid



The court will issue an arrest warrant for the debt.

5b



If you continue to drive without a valid license or registration, your car is a moving target and you will likely be pulled over. The officer will either write you more tickets, take you to jail, or both.

4c

4a

4b

Driver must decide whether to:

STOP DRIVING

KEEP DRIVING



- + JOB LOSS
- + POVERTY
- + STIGMA

You're suddenly jailed for days, weeks, or months depending on how much you owe. You may lose your job, housing, and even your children while behind bars.