



Fines Hardship Review Board

Fines hardship

If you are genuinely facing serious financial, medical and/or personal hardship and the State Debt Recovery (SDR) has refused to write off your fines or to allow you time to pay the fines, you may be eligible to apply to the Fines Hardship Review Board (Board) to review SDR's decision.

The Board will assess your financial, medical and personal circumstances and determine whether by paying your outstanding fines, you and your immediate family would suffer additional hardship. In cases of genuine hardship, the Board has authority under the *Fines Act 1996* to direct SDR to allow you further time to pay your fines or, in severe instances of hardship, have the outstanding fines written off.

Your liability to pay outstanding fines on its own does not establish serious hardship.

The Fines Hardship Review Board

The Board is an independent panel comprising the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director-General of the Attorney General's Department or their delegates. The Board can review certain decisions made by SDR.

When can I apply to the Fines Hardship Review Board?

You can apply to the Board if you have one or more overdue fines issued in your name and SDR has:

- refused your application for payment plan a fine by instalments
- refused your application to reduce the amount you pay under a payment plan arrangement
- set or requested payments at a higher rate than you offered
- refused your application to have fines written off due to financial, medical or personal hardship.

The Board cannot determine if a fine is valid or if a person is liable for a fine. If you wish to request a review of a penalty notice or an overdue fine, you should contact SDR (see back page for details).

MORE INFORMATION



www.hrb.osr.nsw.gov.au



(02) 6354 7116
9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon. to Fri.
Hearing or speech impaired users:
TTY 133 677
Speak and Listen 1300 555 727
Overseas callers: +612 6354 7000



The Secretary
Fines Hardship Review Board
PO Box A2571
Sydney South NSW 1235

State Debt Recovery



www.sdro.nsw.gov.au

For Penalty Notice enquiries*



1300 138 118
7:30 am – 8:00 pm, Mon. to Fri.
Overseas callers: +612 4937 9207



Email us via:
www.sdro.nsw.gov.au/contact

For Overdue Fine enquiries*



1300 655 805
7:30 am – 8:00 pm, Mon. to Fri.
Overseas callers: +612 6354 7000

Office of State Revenue: ISO 9001 – Quality Certified
Department of Finance, Services & Innovation

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How do I apply?

You will need to complete an Application for Review of a State Debt Recovery Decision and send it to us. An application form is available from www.hrb.osr.nsw.gov.au

To request an application, to speak to an officer, or if you need assistance in completing your application, contact:

The Secretary
Fines Hardship Review Board
PO Box A2571
Sydney South NSW 1235

Phone: (02) 6354 7116 (Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm)
Email: fineshrb@osr.nsw.gov.au

You need to show how your financial, medical and/or personal circumstances prevent you paying your fines now and in the near future. You must also attach documentation to support your case.

The Fines Hardship Review Board process

You will receive written confirmation of your application and SDR will also be notified. SDR may decide to take no further enforcement action against you until your review is assessed, however, it is not required to do so unless directed by the Board.

The Board will request SDR to provide all the information used to assess your original application. Any additional information that you have supplied with your application to the Board will also be considered.

Do I need to appear before the Fines Hardship Review Board?

No, the Board does not require you to be present and will consider your application based on all the available evidence.

What happens if my application is successful?

The Board will direct SDR to allow you time to pay or to write off your fine.

You will be notified in writing of the result of your application. SDR is required to implement any decision of the Board.

What happens if my application is not successful?

The Board will notify you in writing of its decision.

You will be required to meet the terms of any orders issued by SDR. If you do not meet these terms, SDR will resume action to enforce your outstanding fines.

Can someone else apply on my behalf?

Yes, as long as you have given your written consent. An Authority to Act form is available from www.hrb.osr.nsw.gov.au