



## Fines from Drug Offenses

---

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee  
Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
1610 University Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37921-6741  
865-974-0411 phone  
865-974-0423 fax  
[www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)

# Table of Contents

Fines from Drug Offenses .....	3
--------------------------------	---

## Fines from Drug Offenses

**Reference Number:** MTAS-341

All fines from drug offenses must be turned over to the local government of the arresting agency. T.C.A. § 39-17-420. T.C.A. § 39-17-428(c)(1) requires that 50 percent of each fine go to the city's General Fund and 50 percent to the city's Drug Fund special revenue account.

Most state courts, including General Sessions and Criminal (Circuit) Courts, allow defendants to pay their fines and court costs on the easy monthly payment plan. The law requires the clerk to apply payments to satisfy state fees first, then court costs, and then the fine. The clerk will then begin forwarding the payments to the city. The proper action for the city recorder is to put 50 percent of each payment in the General Fund and the remainder of each payment in the Drug Fund special revenue account. T.C.A. § 39-17-420, T.C.A. § 39-17-428.

---

*DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.*

**Source URL (retrieved on 05/29/2020 - 1:14pm):** <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/fines-drug-offenses>



Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE