



**STEPHEN A. ZAPPALA, JR.**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

# COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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David Blaner, Executive Director  
Allegheny County Bar Association

Dave,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well.

Decisions/Directives issued by the Governor and the County Executive concerning the Coronavirus have unfortunately created economic problems for many people. This circumstance has been further complicated by the Federal Government's failure to distribute stimulus checks in a timely manner.

I write because I have always tried to ensure the first time non-violent offenders are given a second chance and not otherwise placed in a lifelong disadvantage because of a criminal record. Entrance into certain diversionary programs for instance, Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) had historically been based on an administrative fee payable to Allegheny county. I have directed that fee be deferred for those who cannot pay. We will revisit this issue on April 1, 2021.

Please note I have no authority to waive/defer state legislatively imposed fees/fines, so matters involving DUI's for example, will continue to be rather substantial. (See attached as an example.)

I would appreciate the assistance of the Bar Association to communicate my position in these matters to the members of the criminal law section.

As always, I thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,  
Steve