

Evaluating the Use and Impact of Economic Sanctions in Pennsylvania

Survey on Reactions to Orders to Pay Costs, Fees, Fines, and Restitution

This survey is being conducted for research purposes. It will help Pennsylvania criminal justice officials evaluate how the imposition and payment of economic sanctions affect offenders in Pennsylvania. You were chosen for participation because you were ordered to pay one or more of four types of economic sanctions: costs, fees, fines, and restitution.

You will be asked about your cases involving economic sanctions and your opinion of the process. Your participation by filling out the survey is *completely* voluntary. It will have no effect on any of your cases. Answers will remain completely confidential and will not be shared with probation officers or any other criminal justice personnel.

Please answer the questions to the best of your ability. If there is a question you cannot answer or does not apply to you, skip it and move on to the next question.

While completing this survey, please think about the cases with the following docket number(s):

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have questions, please contact:

Dr. Barry Ruback
Crime, Law, and Justice Program
Department of Sociology
Penn State University
211 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802-6207
(814)865-1307
bruback@psu.edu



I. Economic Sanctions in Your Case

This section asks questions about the money that you may have been ordered to pay on your conviction or convictions.

1. As of March 2012, how much were you ordered to pay in total for each of the following? If you do not know the amount for a particular category, check "Don't Know."

	Total Amount Ordered to Pay				
Court costs	\$,		<input type="radio"/> Don't Know
Supervision fees (for example, fees for probation services)	\$,		<input type="radio"/> Don't Know
Other costs and fees (for example, Crime Victims Compensation, Emergency Services Fund, Automation Fees)	\$,		<input type="radio"/> Don't Know
Fines	\$,		<input type="radio"/> Don't Know
Restitution to victim(s)	\$,		<input type="radio"/> Don't Know

If you do not know the specific breakdown of what you owe, what was the approximate total you owe(d)?

\$,

2. How much were you ordered to pay **each month** for the conviction(s)? \$, Don't Know
3. How much of the total amount ordered in this case have you paid so far? \$, Don't Know
4. After your sentencing hearing, were you shown a sheet that indicated what specific costs and fees you owed, as well as the total amounts for fines and restitution?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know
5. After your sentencing hearing, were you given a sheet to keep that indicated what specific costs and fees you owed, as well as the total amounts for fines and restitution?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know
6. In 2012, did you receive any letters from the Probation Office regarding your payment of restitution?
- Yes ⇒ **If yes**, did you read the letters? Yes No
- No ⇒ **If no**, skip to Q8
- Don't know

7. If you remember receiving one or more letters, what were the letters about? Choose all that apply.

- Gave me information about how much money I owed.
- Gave me information about how much I had paid.
- Congratulated me for making payments.
- Encouraged me to pay restitution because it is the right thing to do.

8. On a scale of 1 to 7, where **1 = Not at all** and **7 = Very well**, please indicate how much you understand each of the following.

How well do you understand. . .	Not at all ←————→ Very well						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. how criminal sentences are set in Pennsylvania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. how the amount of court costs you owe was determined	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. how the amount of supervision fees you owe was determined	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. how the amount of finances you owe was determined	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. how the amount of restitution you owe was determined	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. where the money you pay goes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. In light of the other expenses you have, how difficult is it for you financially to make your court-related monthly payments?

Not at all difficult ←————→ Very difficult						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. On a scale of 1 to 7, where **1 = Not at all** and **7 = Very much**, please indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements.

	Not at all ←————→ Very much						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. For the restitution payments I have made so far, I made them because I believe paying restitution is the right thing to do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. For the restitution payments I have made so far, I made them because I was afraid I would be punished if I did not make them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. On a scale of 1 to 7, where **1 = Not at all responsible** and **7 = Very responsible**, please indicate how much you agree with each of the following.

	Not at all responsible ←————→ Very responsible 1 2 3 4 5 6 7						
a. How responsible do you feel for causing the victim(s) harm?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. How responsible do you feel for restoring the victim(s) to where he or she was before the crime?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. In your opinion, how fair were the amounts that you had to pay for restitution in this case or these cases?

Not at all fair	←————→						Very fair
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<input type="radio"/>							

13. On a scale of 1 to 7, where **1 = Not at all true** and **7 = Very true**, please indicate how true each of the following statements are for you.

	Not at all true ←————→ Very true 1 2 3 4 5 6 7						
a. I plan to pay all of the restitution I owe.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I will pay the restitution I was ordered to pay as quickly as I can.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. I now try to avoid paying any restitution.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Knowing how much restitution I owe is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Knowing how much restitution I have already paid is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Repaying the victim for the harm I caused is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Knowing that repaying restitution is related to lower likelihood of committing a new crime is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

II. Opinions about Economic Sanctions in General

The following questions ask about your attitudes and opinions about the criminal justice system overall.

14. Please indicate how fair you think each of the following are.

	Very fair	Somewhat fair	Neutral	Somewhat unfair	Very unfair
a. The sentences imposed on most offenders.	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Offenders being required to pay restitution .	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Offenders being required to pay court costs .	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Offenders being required to pay fees .	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Offenders being required to pay fin es.	<input type="radio"/>				

15. On a scale of 1 to 7, where **1 = Not at all** and **7 = Very much**, please indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements.

	Not at all						Very much
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Paying restitution is a hardship for most offenders.	<input type="radio"/>						
b. Paying restitution teaches offenders a lesson.	<input type="radio"/>						
c. Paying restitution teaches offenders to care about victims.	<input type="radio"/>						
d. Paying restitution rehabilitates offenders.	<input type="radio"/>						
e. Paying restitution deters future criminal behavior.	<input type="radio"/>						

16. Is there anything about your experience with economic sanctions that you would like to add? Please use the space below.

III. Opinions about the Probation Office

17. On a scale of 1 to 7 where **1 = Not at all** and **7 = Very much**, please indicate how effective you think probation officers are at each of the following:

	Not at all	←—————→					Very much
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Supervising probationers	<input type="radio"/>						
b. Preventing crimes	<input type="radio"/>						
c. Rehabilitating probationers	<input type="radio"/>						

18. To what extent do you agree with these statements?

	Not at all	←—————→					Very much
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Probation officers treat me with respect.	<input type="radio"/>						
b. Probation officers are helpful.	<input type="radio"/>						
c. Probation officers make fair decisions when handling problems.	<input type="radio"/>						
d. Probation officers usually act in ways that are consistent with my own ideas about what is right and wrong.	<input type="radio"/>						
e. Probation officers can be trusted to make decisions that are right for probationers.	<input type="radio"/>						
f. My own feelings about what is right and wrong usually agree with the law.	<input type="radio"/>						
g. You should do whatever your probation officer tells you to do, even if you disagree with him/her.	<input type="radio"/>						
h. You should do whatever your probation officer tells you to do, even if you don't like the way he/she treats you.	<input type="radio"/>						

IV. Opinions about Treatment Programs

19. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = Strongly disagree and 5 = Strongly agree.

	Strongly Disagree ←————→ Strongly Agree				
	1	2	3	4	5
a. Treatment programs are garbage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I am not able to do treatment programs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Treatment programs are for whimps.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. I want to change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Stopping offending is really important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Treatment programs don't work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. When I think about my last offense, I feel angry with myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. I feel ashamed about my offending.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. I am upset about being a corrections client.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Being seen as an offender upsets me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. I regret the offense that led to my last sentence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. I feel guilty about my offending.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Others are to blame for my offenses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. I don't deserve to be doing a sentence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. I am to blame for my offenses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. When I think about my sentence, I feel angry with people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. I am well-organized.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. I have not offended for some time now.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s. I hate being told what to do.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
t. Generally, I can trust other people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

V. Opinions About Possible Changes to Paying Economic Sanctions

20. How helpful would it be to you if all of the restitution you owed was consolidated across cases so that you would have to make only one payment?

Not at all helpful ←————→ Very helpful
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

21. If the state of Pennsylvania instituted each of the following procedures, how would it affect your likelihood of making a payment toward restitution? For each of the following, indicate whether it would make you less likely to pay, more likely to pay, or somewhere in between.

	Less likely to pay restitution				More likely to pay restitution		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Loss of Driver's License until all restitution was paid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. 10 hours of mandatory Community Service per week until all restitution was paid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Commitment to jail until all restitution was paid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Garnishment of wages (\$50 per week) until all restitution was paid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Seizure of personal property (car and possessions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Establishment of a Special Collections Office within the County Court that focuses only on the collection of restitution and fines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. If the Centre County Department of Probation imposed the following sanctions, how would it affect your likelihood of making a payment toward restitution? For each of the following, indicate whether it would make you less likely to pay, more likely to pay, or somewhere in between.

	Less likely to pay restitution				More likely to pay restitution		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. More frequent reporting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Suspension of travel permits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Having to write a letter to the judge to explain why you haven't paid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Complete payment ability evaluation with verification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Mandatory attendance at a class on budgeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Less frequent reporting/Mail-in status	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Indirect criminal contempt sanction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Receiving praise from the Probation Officer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. If the Centre County Department of Probation made the following changes, how would it affect your likelihood of making a payment toward restitution? For each of the following, indicate whether it would make you less likely to pay, more likely to pay, or somewhere in between.

	Less likely to pay restitution				More likely to pay restitution		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a. Probation Office open more hours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Able to make payments by mail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Able to charge payments to a credit card	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Able to have payments taken directly from a bank account	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Able to make payments on-line	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Unified Judicial System web portal without being charged a convenience fee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

VI. Background Information

This last set of questions collects basic information about your background. These questions are used to compare people from rural areas with those from urban areas, those who are married with those who are single, and so on. All your responses will be kept completely confidential.

24. What racial group do you consider yourself a member of? Select all that apply.

- White
- Black
- Native American
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Other (specify): _____

25. What is your age? years old

26. What is your current marital status?

- Never married
- Living with a partner
- Married
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed

27. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

- 8th grade or less } **If less than a high school graduate, do you have:**
- Some high school } a. a GED (high school equivalency) Yes No
- High school graduate } b. Trade or technical training Yes No
- Some college, post high school trade or technical training, or associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional training

28. Which one of the following best describes your current work situation?

- Regular full-time work
- Regular part-time work
- Occasional work
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Disabled - unable to work
- Homemaker
- Student

29. Which category best describes your total household income over the past 12 months? Include AFDC, food stamps, child support that you receive, and unemployment compensation.

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,001 - \$20,000
- \$20,001 - \$30,000
- \$30,001 - \$40,000
- \$40,001 - \$60,000
- \$60,001 - \$80,000
- More than \$80,000

30. Do you own your home?

- Yes
- No

31. Do you own a car?

- Yes
- No

32. Who are you living with at this time? Select all that apply.

- No one, I live alone
- Spouse or Partner
- Parent(s)
- Other adult relative(s)
- Friend(s) or Roommate(s)
- Child/Children

33. Not including any court costs, fees, fines, and restitution described earlier, what are your estimated total debts (e.g., credit cards, mortgage, loans, etc.)?

\$, total debts

34. Please indicate which of the following you pay each month and how much you pay for each.

	Yes	No	Amount paid/month
Child support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Rent/Mortgage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Car payment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Insurance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Utilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Credit card bills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

35. How many adults and how many children do you support?

adults supported # children supported

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses will help us understand how economic sanctions affect people in Pennsylvania. Please return the survey to the Survey Research Center at Penn State in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Be sure to also include the yellow sheet indicating where your gift card should be mailed.