

**Local Government Debt
Collections Program Webinar
for the
County Commissioners'
Association of Ohio**

**Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine
Collections Enforcement Section**

November 13, 2013



- **Attorney General Mike DeWine's Collections Enforcement section acts as the chief collection agent for all state agencies, boards and commissions and universities.**
- **A change in state law enabled the Collections Enforcement section to collect debt on behalf of local governments.**



- **The Attorney General's Local Debt Collection program is kept separate from our general collections function and, as such, has a separate staff trained and dedicated to collecting this debt exclusively.**



- **The Attorney General's Collection Enforcement section began collections on this program in February of 2012.**
- **We currently have 35 clients that we are actively collecting for and several clients who have executed MOU's and are in the process of getting their accounts to us for collection.**



- **The program began collecting for courts but, has grown to include EMS and Police Alarm debt, Adult Career Centers, overdue municipal income tax and traffic fines.**
- **The program collects debt from a wide variety of governmental entities including villages to one of the largest county courts.**



To Get Started:

- Request a new client packet including a Memorandum of Understanding from the Attorney General's Collections Enforcement office.
- Once the Memorandum of Understanding is executed by your legal authority and signed by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, you will be contacted to begin the process of downloading your debt to the office for collection.



Process

- The process of certifying (downloading) debt to the Attorney General's Office is fully automated through the use of an FTP file or excel data file layout that will be provided.



Collection Efforts:

- The debtor will be immediately informed by letter that:
- Their debt has been referred from you and is now being held by the Ohio Attorney General's office for collection purposes; and
- Payment in full is requested; and
- The debtor is told that we may take any state income tax refund to pay their debt to you.



Types of Debt that **WILL** be collected

- The Debt types that **WILL** be collected include:
- Any final debt over \$100.00
- Examples: Statutory fees accessed by Political Subdivision; and
- Civil court costs; and
- Criminal Court costs.



Debts **NOT** collected:

- Any debt that is **NOT** final, still under appeal or subject to change; or
- Any debt under \$100.00; or
- Any debt against a currently incarcerated debtor; or
- Any debt owed by a juvenile; or
- Any rent, utilities, or debt involved in a bankruptcy or foreclosure action.



- **Payment from the debtor can be made by check, credit card and through the internet.**
- **The Attorney General's Office charges a 10 percent collection fee that can be passed to the debtor.**



- **Offset of a debtor's state tax refund can be made through an automated function the Attorney General's Office uses in coordination with the Ohio Department of Taxation. The Attorney General's Office can also offset some Lottery and Racino winnings and unclaimed funds held by the state.**



- **The Attorney General's Office offers online monitoring and review of accounts through interactive software made available to local and state entities.**



- **Upon request, the Attorney General's Office will email you a new client packet including:**

Client Questionnaire

Memorandum of Understanding

List of business rules



- For additional information or to receive a new client packet of information regarding the Attorney General's Local Collection program contact:

Jill Reardon

LGC@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

614 466-4510

