August 14, 2019
Notice of Government Codes §§ 70627, 70631 and 70633(b)
Authorization to Charge Government Agencies for Copy and Certification Fees for Criminal Case Records and to Charge Media for Copy, Certification, Search and Off-Site Retrieval Fees for All Case Records

Historically, it has been the Court's policy to waive the costs of copy and certification fees for criminal court records requested by government agencies. Due to the increasing costs and labor involved with record requests, the Court has determined that it will no longer provide copies and certifications of criminal case court records at no charge, with the exception of requests for local summary criminal history information furnished to a public law enforcement agency to assist it in employing, licensing, or certifying a person who is applying for employment with the agency as a peace officer or criminal investigator. (Penal Code § 13300(f).) *Government Code* § 70633(b) provides authority for courts to charge government agencies for certifications and copies of all criminal records. In recent years a number of courts have implemented policies in accordance with this provision.

The Court has also usually waived the costs of copy, certification, search and off-site retrieval fees for media organizations. Due to the ever expanding definition of media, and the increasing costs and labor involved with these requests, the Court has similarly determined that it can no longer provide copies and certifications of criminal and civil case court records at no charge, nor can it waive the search and off-site retrieval fees incurred in processing such requests. This change in policy is also consistent with the policies of other courts. Please note that the Court is continuing to make strides to ensure that all case records are available electronically, which will provide easier access for both the public and the media.

Effective September 1, 2019, please be advised that the Court will charge government agencies copy and certification fees for criminal case court records. In addition, the Court will require each government agency to pay in advance for the records, unless the agency makes arrangements for monthly billing or establishes a drawdown payment account. The Court will also charge the media copy, certification, search and off-site retrieval fees for civil and criminal court records. The Court will require the media to pay all fees in advance.

Fees:

- Copy Fees - $.50 per printed page, pursuant to *Government Code* § 70627(a)
- Certification Fees - $40.00 per document, pursuant to *Government Code* § 70626(a)(4)
- Search Fees - $15.00 per file for a search that requires more than ten (10) minutes, pursuant to *Government Code* § 70627(c)
- Off-Site Retrieval Fees - $20.00 per file, pursuant to *Government Code* § 70631, California Rules of Court, Rule 10.815 and Local Rule 1.8.1

Requests:

Requests may be made by email using the court's online *New Judicial Records Request* Form. The form can be found on the Court's website at www.kern.courts.ca.gov under "Request Court Records." Alternatively, requests may be made by mail, by telephone, or in person. For more information see the Court's website under Self Help>>Court Records.

Thank you for your attention to this information.

(Rev. 02/17/2022 for updated fees)