

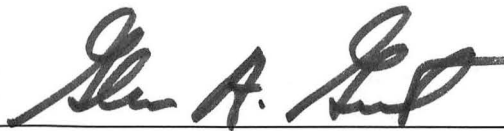
NOTICE TO THE BAR

AUTHORIZATION TO VACATE CERTAIN COMPREHENSIVE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) BENCH WARRANTS

The Supreme Court, by order dated October 8, 2019 (published with this notice), authorized the Assignment Judges to issue orders at the vicinage/county level vacating up to 581 Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) warrants statewide that do not include outstanding restitution or Victim Crimes Compensation Office (VCCO) penalties and that either (a) have a balance under \$500 or (b) have been active for more than two years. Under these vicinage/ county orders, when a CEP warrant is vacated and there are still outstanding fines or penalties (other than restitution or VCCO penalties), a civil judgment must be docketed and the case is to be declared uncollectible. Additionally, until further order of the Supreme Court, no CEP warrants are to be issued for any outstanding obligation of \$500 or less.

Going forward, each Assignment Judge will review that vicinage's CEP warrants on an annual basis and will issue future vicinage/county orders vacating CEP warrants consistent with the above criteria. As provided in those criteria, no warrant, regardless of the dollar amount or the length of time it has been inactive, will be vacated if the individual owes outstanding restitution or VCCO penalties.

Questions regarding this notice and the Supreme Court's order may be directed to Brenda Beacham, Assistant Director for Probation Services, by email at brenda.beacham@njcourts.gov or by telephone 609-815-3810 ext. 16243.



Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: November 21, 2019

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS a review by the Judiciary's Office of Probation Services has revealed that Assignment Judges currently permit the issuance of Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) warrants in twelve counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Salem, Sussex, and Union; and

That as of September 2019, there were a total of 3,026 active CEP warrants in those twelve counties, with 581 of the active warrants either having a balance under \$500 or having been active for more than two years, and that those 581 warrants do not include outstanding restitution or Victim Crimes Compensation Office (VCCO) penalties;

In the interest of justice, it is ORDERED that:

(a) The Assignment Judges in each of the twelve counties identified in the first paragraph of this order are authorized to issue orders vacating the 581 CEP warrants in their respective vicinages that do not include outstanding restitution or VCCO penalties and that either have a balance under \$500 or have been active for more than two years; and

(b) When a CEP warrant is vacated and outstanding fines or penalties exist, other than restitution or VCCO penalties, a civil judgment must be docketed and the case is to be declared uncollectible; and

(c) No warrant, regardless of the dollar amount or the length of time it has been inactive will be vacated if the individual owes outstanding restitution or VCCO penalties; and

(d) Until further order of the Court, no CEP warrants shall be issued for any outstanding obligation of \$500 or less.

It is **FURTHER ORDERED THAT**

Any CEP warrant with a balance over \$500 that has been in place for less than two years will remain in effect, until it reaches the two-year mark. Once the warrant has been in place for two years, probation staff will conduct a review to determine whether the outstanding balance includes restitution or VCCO penalties, and whether the warrant is appropriate for possible dismissal, and

Each vicinage, in coordination with the Office of Probation Services, shall conduct an annual review of CEP warrants for purposes of the Assignment Judges vacating CEP warrants consistent with the criteria set forth in this Order.

The provisions of this Order are effective immediately.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Date: October 8, 2019