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CREDIT CARD AND ONLINE PAYMENTS TO BE ACCEPTED AT THREE MORE JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

Three more Navajo Nation courts have now implemented ePayment for the public to pay for civil traffic fines within their judicial districts. Aneth, Chinle and Shiprock Judicial Districts are now online with ePayments.

The ePayment implementation allows the public to pay for civil traffic fines by credit card on a secure website and to view their cases after creating an account on JusticeWeb. These judicial districts are also able to accept credit card payments at the counter or over the phone. Without this new system in place, paying for fines requires payment only by money order, which can be an inconvenience for many. Payment with money order is still accepted at all judicial districts.

Kayenta Judicial District was the first to implement ePayment in April 2017. Since then, Kayenta Judicial District Court has collected nearly 29 percent more in fines over the previous year's collection.

Bettina Norton, Aneth Judicial District court administrator, said that ePayment will be very beneficial to Aneth District Court.

"Aneth is a very remote area," Norton said noting that some people do not know where the court is located and the nearest post office, where people may buy money orders, is nine miles away. "In the past, customers have asked if Aneth District Court is able to take payments over the phone or online. We are very grateful to have the ePayment live."

The Judicial Branch works with nCourt and Journal Technologies to implement ePayment at Navajo Nation courts. Journal Technologies handles the database of the courts through case management software. nCourt processes transactions and accepts payments.

Ben Mariano, Information Technology manager for the Judicial Branch, said the development of an interface took a lot of effort and coordination between Journal Technologie, nCourt, and Navajo Nation JustWare administrators and court administrators.

Mariano added that the difficulty of the project was compounded by the number of judicial districts utilizing the payment interface, the link to the court's JustWare Database, and the different banks processing the payment transactions.

"We now have a secure and protected means of accepting credit card payments and online payments," he said.

"We will now begin work to get the rest of the Navajo Nation judicial districts to be a part of this project," Mariano added.

The link to request an account to make payments is available on the www.navajocourts.org website under "JusticeWeb." Users will be able to search for payments owed using their name and citation number. There is a 5 percent processing fee to make payment by credit card.

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