Fines—financial obligations ostensibly established to serve a wholly punitive function—are not dischargeable in a chapter 7 bankruptcy. This includes traffic and parking fines. However, collection costs related to state criminal fines that are not for the benefit of a governmental unit may be dischargeable.

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**Footnotes**


275 [282] In re Dickerson, 510 B.R. 289 (Bankr. D. Idaho 2014) (collection costs related to state criminal fines were not for benefit of governmental unit and therefore were dischargeable).

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**Source:** National Consumer Law Center, Collection Actions [4th ed.], updated at www.nclc.org/library

**Source URL:** https://library.nclc.org/ca/11060302