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PRESS CLIPPING

## New fine-collection system wins praise

WILL COUNTY, IL—A Will County program that outsources court-related debt collections has garnered \$400,539 in its first two months of operation.

Begun May 24, the program uses a Chicago-based collection agency to contact individuals who haven't paid past-due court fines and costs.

Defendants did not pay roughly \$1.6 million in various fines in 2005, county officials said. Broken down, the figure covered \$936,000 for felony fines, \$479,000 for ordinance violations, \$246,000 for misdemeanor fines and \$6,600 for conservation violations.

Debt collector Harris & Harris returns 100 percent of the amount owed back to the Will County Circuit Court and collects a small service fee directly from the payer.

County Executive Larry Walsh credited State's Atty. James Glasgow and Circuit Court Clerk Pam McGuire with successfully outsourcing the debt collection.

"It's important to remember that the initiative is not costing the county one dime," Walsh said. "It is money owed by those who broke the law."

By  
**Dennis Sullivan**

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- Larry Walsh  
County Executive



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