

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**NOTICE TO CONSUMER DEBTOR(S) UNDER § 342(b)
OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE**

In accordance with § 342(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, this notice to individuals with primarily consumer debts: (1) Describes briefly the services available from credit counseling services; (2) Describes briefly the purposes, benefits and costs of the four types of bankruptcy proceedings you may commence; and (3) Informs you about bankruptcy crimes and notifies you that the Attorney General may examine all information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case.

You are cautioned that bankruptcy law is complicated and not easily described. Thus, you may wish to seek the advice of an attorney to learn of your rights and responsibilities should you decide to file a petition. Court employees cannot give you legal advice.

Notices from the bankruptcy court are sent to the mailing address you list on your bankruptcy petition. In order to ensure that you receive information about events concerning your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address. If you are filing a **joint case** (a single bankruptcy case for two individuals married to each other), and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, you and your spouse will generally receive a single copy of each notice mailed from the bankruptcy court in a jointly-addressed envelope, unless you file a statement with the court requesting that each spouse receive a separate copy of all notices.

1. Services Available from Credit Counseling Agencies

With limited exceptions, § 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that all individual debtors who file for bankruptcy relief on or after October 17, 2005, receive a briefing that outlines the available opportunities for credit counseling and provides assistance in performing a budget analysis. The briefing must be given within 180 days **before** the bankruptcy filing. The briefing may be provided individually or in a group (including briefings conducted by telephone or on the Internet) and must be provided by a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator. The clerk of the bankruptcy court has a list that you may consult of the approved budget and credit counseling agencies. Each debtor in a joint case must complete the briefing.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, an individual debtor generally must complete a financial management instructional course before he or she can receive a discharge. The clerk also has a list of approved financial management instructional courses. Each debtor in a joint case must complete the course.

2. The Four Chapters of the Bankruptcy Code Available to Individual Consumer Debtors**Chapter 7: Liquidation (\$245 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee, \$15 trustee surcharge: Total Fee \$299)**

1. Chapter 7 is designed for debtors in financial difficulty who do not have the ability to pay their existing debts. Debtors whose debts are primarily consumer debts are subject to a "means test" designed to determine whether the case should be permitted to proceed under chapter 7. If your income is greater than the median income for your state of residence and family size, in some cases, creditors have the right to file a motion requesting that the court dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Code. It is up to the court to decide whether the case should be dismissed.

2. Under chapter 7, you may claim certain of your property as exempt under governing law. A trustee may have the right to take possession of and sell the remaining property that is not exempt and use the sale proceeds to pay your creditors.

3. The purpose of filing a chapter 7 case is to obtain a discharge of your existing debts. If, however, you are found to have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge and, if it does, the purpose for which you filed the bankruptcy petition will be defeated.

4. Even if you receive a general discharge, some particular debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible for most taxes and student loans; debts incurred to pay nondischargeable taxes; domestic support and property settlement obligations; most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; certain debts which are not properly listed in your bankruptcy papers; and debts for death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs. Also, if a creditor can prove that a debt arose from fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, or theft, or from a willful and malicious injury, the bankruptcy court may determine that the debt is not discharged.

Chapter 13: Repayment of All or Part of the Debts of an Individual with Regular Income (\$235 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$274)

1. Chapter 13 is designed for individuals with regular income who would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments

over a period of time. You are only eligible for chapter 13 if your debts do not exceed certain dollar amounts set forth in the Bankruptcy Code.

2. Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, using your future earnings. The period allowed by the court to repay your debts may be three years or five years, depending upon your income and other factors. The court must approve your plan before it can take effect.

3. After completing the payments under your plan, your debts are generally discharged except for domestic support obligations; most student loans; certain taxes; most criminal fines and restitution obligations; certain debts which are not properly listed in your bankruptcy papers; certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury; and certain long term secured obligations.

Chapter 11: Reorganization (\$1000 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$1039)

Chapter 11 is designed for the reorganization of a business but is also available to consumer debtors. Its provisions are quite complicated, and any decision by an individual to file a chapter 11 petition should be reviewed with an attorney.

Chapter 12: Family Farmer or Fisherman (\$200 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$239)

Chapter 12 is designed to permit family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time from future earnings and is similar to chapter 13. The eligibility requirements are restrictive, limiting its use to those whose income arises primarily from a family-owned farm or commercial fishing operation.

3. Bankruptcy Crimes and Availability of Bankruptcy Papers to Law Enforcement Officials

A person who knowingly and fraudulently conceals assets or makes a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury, either orally or in writing, in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both. All information supplied by a debtor in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the United States Trustee, the Office of the United States Attorney, and other components and employees of the Department of Justice.

WARNING: Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information regarding your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. Your bankruptcy case may be dismissed if this information is not filed with the court within the time deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

Certificate of Attorney

I hereby certify that I delivered to the debtor this notice required by § 342(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Allen G. Mealey 47333

Printed Name of Attorney

Address:

4972 Benchmark Centre Drive

Suite # 250

Swansea, IL 62226

(618) 622-3330

amealey@gbglegal.com

X

Signature of Attorney

Date

Certificate of Debtor

I (We), the debtor(s), affirm that I (we) have received and read this notice.

Printed Name(s) of Debtor(s)

X

Signature of Debtor

Date

Case No. (if known)

X

Signature of Joint Debtor (if any)

Date

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION REQUIRED BY 11 U.S.C. §341

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, the Office of the United States Trustee, United States Department of Justice, has prepared this information sheet to help you understand some of the possible consequences of filing a bankruptcy petition under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. This information is intended to make you aware of...

- (1) the potential consequences of seeking a discharge in bankruptcy, including the effects on credit history;
- (2) the effect of receiving a discharge of debts
- (3) the effect of reaffirming a debt; and
- (4) your ability to file a petition under a different chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

There are many other provisions of the Bankruptcy Code that may affect your situation. This information sheet contains only general principles of law and is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have questions or need further information as to how the bankruptcy laws apply to your specific case, you should consult with your lawyer.

WHAT IS A DISCHARGE?

The filing of a chapter 7 petition is designed to result in a discharge of most of the debts you listed on your bankruptcy schedules. A discharge is a court order that says you do not have to repay your debts, but there are a number of exceptions. Debts which may not be discharged in your chapter 7 case include, for example, most taxes, child support, alimony, and student loans; court-ordered fines and restitution; debts obtained through fraud or deception; and personal injury debts caused by driving while intoxicated or taking drugs. Your discharge may be denied entirely if you, for example, destroy or conceal property; destroy, conceal or falsify records; or make a false oath. Creditors cannot ask you to pay any debts which have been discharged. You can only receive a chapter 7 discharge once every eight (8) years.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF A DISCHARGE?

The fact that you filed bankruptcy can appear on your credit report for as long as 10 years. Thus, filing a bankruptcy petition may affect your ability to obtain credit in the future. Also, you may not be excused from repaying any debts that were not listed on your bankruptcy schedules or that you incurred after you filed for bankruptcy.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF REAFFIRMING A DEBT?

After you file your petition, a creditor may ask you to reaffirm a certain debt or you may seek to do so on your own. Reaffirming a debt means that you sign and file with the court a legally enforceable document, which states that you promise to repay all or a portion of the debt that may otherwise have been discharged in your bankruptcy case. Reaffirmation agreements must generally be filed with the court within 60 days after the first meeting of the creditors.

Reaffirmation agreements are strictly voluntary — they are not required by the Bankruptcy Code or other state or federal law. You can voluntarily repay any debt instead of signing a reaffirmation agreement, but there may be valid reasons for wanting to reaffirm a particular debt.

Reaffirmation agreements must not impose an undue burden on you or your dependents and must be in your best interest. If you decide to sign a reaffirmation agreement, you may cancel it at any time before the court issues your discharge order or within sixty (60) days after the reaffirmation agreement was filed with the court, whichever is later. If you reaffirm a debt and fail to make the payments required in the reaffirmation agreement, the creditor can take action against you to recover any property that was given as security for the loan and you may remain personally liable for any remaining debt.

OTHER BANKRUPTCY OPTIONS

You have a choice in deciding what chapter of the Bankruptcy Code will best suit your needs. Even if you have already filed for relief under chapter 7, you may be eligible to convert your case to a different chapter.

Chapter 7 is the liquidation chapter of the Bankruptcy Code. Under chapter 7, a trustee is appointed to collect and sell, if economically feasible, all property you own that is not exempt from these actions.

Chapter 11 is the reorganization chapter most commonly used by businesses, but it is also available to individuals. Creditors vote on whether to accept or reject a plan, which also must be approved by the court. While the debtor normally remains in control of the assets, the court can order the appointment of a trustee to take possession and control of the business.

Chapter 12 offers bankruptcy relief to those who qualify as family farmers. Family farmers must propose a plan to repay their creditors over a three-to-five year period and it must be approved by the court. Plan payments are made through a chapter 12 trustee, who also monitors the debtor's farming operations during the pendency of the plan.

Finally, chapter 13 generally permits individuals to keep their property by repaying creditors out of their future income. Each chapter 13 debtor writes a plan which must be approved by the bankruptcy court. The debtor must pay the chapter 13 trustee the amounts set forth in their plan. Debtors receive a discharge after they complete their chapter 13 repayment plan. Chapter 13 is only available to individuals with regular income whose debts do not exceed \$1,000,000 (\$250,000 in unsecured debts and \$750,000 in secured debts).

AGAIN, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR LAWYER IF YOU NEED FURTHER INFORMATION OR EXPLANATION, INCLUDING HOW THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS RELATE TO YOUR SPECIFIC CASE.

Debtor's Signature

Date

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE
SERVICES FROM AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION
PREPARER.**

If you decide to seek bankruptcy relief, you can represent yourself, you can hire an attorney to represent you, or you can get help in some localities from a bankruptcy petition preparer who is not an attorney. **THE LAW REQUIRES AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER TO GIVE YOU A WRITTEN CONTRACT SPECIFYING WHAT THE ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER WILL DO FOR YOU AND HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.** Ask to see the contract before you hire anyone.

The following information helps you understand what must be done in a routine bankruptcy case to help you evaluate how much service you need. Although bankruptcy can be complex, many cases are routine.

Before filing a bankruptcy case, either you or your attorney should analyze your eligibility for different forms of debt relief available under the Bankruptcy Code and which form of relief is most likely to be beneficial for you. Be sure you understand the relief you can obtain and its limitations. To file a bankruptcy case, documents called a Petition, Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs, as well as in some cases a Statement of Intention need to be prepared correctly and filed with the bankruptcy court. You will have to pay a filing fee to the bankruptcy court. Once your case starts, you will have to attend the required first meeting of the creditors where you may be questioned by a court official called a 'trustee' and by creditors.

If you choose to file a chapter 7 case, you may be asked by a creditor to reaffirm a debt. You may want help deciding whether to do so. A creditor is not permitted to coerce you into reaffirming your debts.

If you choose to file a chapter 13 case in which you repay your creditors what you can afford over 3 to 5 years, you may also want help with preparing your chapter 13 plan and with the confirmation hearing on your plan which will be before a bankruptcy judge.

If you select another type of relief under the Bankruptcy Code other than chapter 7 or chapter 13, you will want to find out what should be done from someone familiar with that type of relief.

Your bankruptcy case may also involve litigation. You are generally permitted to represent yourself in litigation in bankruptcy court, but only attorneys, not bankruptcy petition preparers, can give you legal advice.

Certificate of Debtor

I (We), the debtor(s), affirm that I (we) have received and read this notice.

Printed Name(s) of Debtor(s)

X

Signature of Debtor

Date

Case No. (if known) _____

X

Signature of Joint Debtor (if any)

Date

Disclosure Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §527(a)(2)

You are notified:

1. All information that you are required to provide with a petition and thereafter during a case under the Bankruptcy Code is required to be complete, accurate, and truthful.
2. All assets and all liabilities are required to be completely and accurately disclosed in the documents filed to commence the case. Some places in the Bankruptcy Code require that you list the replacement value of each asset. This must be the replacement value of the property at the date of filing the petition, without deducting for costs of sale or marketing, established after a reasonable inquiry. For property acquired for personal, family, or household use, replacement value means the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind, considering the age and condition of the property.
3. The following information, which appear on Official Form 22, Statement of Current Monthly Income, are required to be stated after reasonable inquiry: current monthly income, the amounts specified in section 707(b)(2), and, in a case under chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code, disposable income (determined in accordance with section 707(b)(2)).
4. Information that you provide during your case may be audited pursuant to provisions of the Bankruptcy Code. Failure to provide such information may result in dismissal of the case under this title or other sanction, including criminal sanctions.

Certificate of Debtor

I (We), the debtor(s), affirm that I (we) have received and read this notice.

Printed Name(s) of Debtor(s)

X _____
Signature of Debtor Date

Case No. (if known) _____

X _____
Signature of Joint Debtor (if any) Date

INITIAL CONSULTATION AGREEMENT AND REQUIRED NOTICES

Please Note: These documents and disclosures are required by legislation adopted by Congress in 2005. We can guide you through all the requirements of filing for bankruptcy, so long as you provide us accurate and complete information.

Today, I had an initial consultation with Gateway Bankruptcy Group. (the "Firm"). I was advised that the Firm is a debt relief agency as defined in the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 ("BAPCPA"), and that it helps people file for relief under the bankruptcy code.

There is no charge for the initial consultation. The Firm provides the following services at the initial consultation:

- A description of the relief available, the benefits and the risks of filing for bankruptcy under sections 7, 11, 12 and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- An analysis, based on the information and documents provided by me, if any, of my income, expenses, assets and liabilities. This analysis is only preliminary, since the Firm does not have all of the information and documents that will be required to fully evaluate my situation.
- If it has appeared from this analysis that bankruptcy may be an appropriate remedy for me, a discussion of the information and documents I will need to provide the Firm. If it has appeared from today's analysis that bankruptcy may not be an appropriate remedy for me, a discussion of other possible alternatives.

I have been informed and agree that the Firm will not provide any services or bankruptcy assistance to me at this time, other than specifically stated in this Agreement. It is understood that the Firm will not file bankruptcy for me unless and until the Bankruptcy Questionnaire has been completed, all documents and information requested have been provided, and I have received a certification and budget analysis from an approved credit counseling agency. Should I wish the Firm to provide additional services, including the filing of bankruptcy, I will sign a separate retainer agreement detailing such services and their cost.

I (We), the debtor(s) affirm that I (we) have received and read this notice:

Dated _____

Debtor

Debtor

Attorney

PROVIDING THE REQUIRED INFORMATION

How to place a value on your property?

11 U.S.C. § 506(a): Fair Valuation of Collateral.

The value of your personal property that is collateral for debt (a debt where the creditor could repossess the item if you stop making payments, such as a car, furniture or computer equipment being purchased on installment) is determined based on the replacement value of such property as of the filing date of the bankruptcy case without deduction for selling or marketing costs.

If the item was acquired for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement value is the price a retail merchant would charge for an item of that kind, considering the age and condition of the property at the time its value is determined.

So, the value of the car, the furniture, the computer or anything else that you won't own until it's paid off, is not what you paid for it, and it is not what you could sell it for at the flea-market. The value is what you would have to pay a retail store selling similar items in a similar age and condition.

Most retail stores do not sell used items. However, there are usually stores that are selling used furniture, musical instruments, cars, and similar products. You might be able to provide a good estimate of the value of your items by inquiring at such a store. If you can't find a store that sells similar items in similar condition, the next best source for an objective appraisal is probably eBay or a similar online market.

How to determine current monthly income?

To arrive at your current monthly income, you do the following:

- a) Total up all of your income for the last 6 months (and if your spouse is filing bankruptcy, his or her income as well).

Include the contributions from any member of the household who is contributing regularly to the household expenses.

Income includes:

1. Wages and salaries
2. Money earned from side jobs
3. Investment income
4. Interest income
5. Income for self-employed individuals

Income does not include:

1. Benefits received under the Social Security Act;
2. Payments to victims of war crimes or crimes against humanity on account of their status as victims of such crimes; and
3. Payments to victims of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of Title 18) or domestic terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of Title 18) on account of their status as victims of such terrorism.

b. Divide this figure by 6 to arrive at an average monthly income.

How to figure your necessary living expenses?

Go through the same exercise for your expenses. Total up all expenses for the last 6 months, then divide by 6 to obtain a monthly average. Expenses include all of your reasonably necessary costs of living, such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, transportation, etc.

Do not include in your expenses payments for credit cards, repayments of personal loans, delinquent medical bills, taxes, store charge accounts, business debts, or other non-regular expenses not included as necessary living expenses.

Use the worksheet below as a guide

Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home) -----	\$ _____
Are real estate taxes included? Yes or No	
Is property insurance included? Yes or No	
Utilities Electricity and Heating fuel -----	\$ _____
Water & Sewer -----	\$ _____
Telephone -----	\$ _____
Other -----	\$ _____
Home maintenance (repairs and upkeep) -----	\$ _____
Food -----	\$ _____
Clothing -----	\$ _____
Laundry & Dry Cleaning -----	\$ _____
Medical & Dental Expenses -----	\$ _____
Transportation (Not including car payments) -----	\$ _____
Recreation, Clubs & Entertainment, Newspapers, Magazines, Etc. -----	\$ _____
Charitable Contributions -----	\$ _____
Insurance (not deducted from wages or included in home mortgage payments)	
Homeowner's or Renter -----	\$ _____
Life -----	\$ _____
Health -----	\$ _____
Auto -----	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
Taxes (not deducted from wages or included in home mortgage payments)	

(Specify) _____ \$ _____

Installment payments: (In chapter 12 and 13 cases, do not list payments to be included in the plan)

Auto ----- \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

Alimony, maintenance, and support paid to others ----- \$ _____

Payments for support of additional dependents not living at your home----- \$ _____

Regular expenses from operation of business, profession, or farm (attach detailed statement)----- \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES ----- \$ _____

Divide the total by 6, which gives you your average monthly living expenses.

How to calculate your disposable income, if any?

If your average monthly income exceeds your reasonable necessary living expenses, subtract expenses from income; the surplus is your disposable income.

How to list your creditors (your debts)?

For each person or entity (such as credit card, store, medical bill, IRS, mortgage, and etc.) for which you owe money, provide the following information:

1. Name and address of the creditor
2. The account number (if any)
3. The amount currently owed
4. The amount of the regular monthly payment (if any)
5. When was the debt created (if a credit card, give a range)?
6. Was the debt:
 - a. financing of a purchase (such as a home, car, furniture, etc.) or
 - b. a loan or debt for which you put up an item as collateral
7. If either part of question 6 is yes, describe the item purchased
8. What was the original retail price of the item?
9. What is it's current value?
10. Are you current with the monthly payments?
11. If the answer to 10 is no, has the claim been turned over to a collection agency or lawyer?
12. If 11 is yes, provide the name and address of the collection agency or lawyer.
13. Has the creditor sued you or obtained a judgment against you?
14. If 13 is yes, provide the name of the plaintiff, the case number, the court and court location, and the amount of the judgment.

How to determine which of your assets are exempt?

Exempt assets are assets that the bankruptcy trustee is not allowed to take away from you to pay debts. Most kinds of property owned by typical people who file bankruptcy are exempt, meaning you don't lose them if you file bankruptcy. But whether an item is exempt or not depends not only on what category of property it is, but also the value of your equity in the property (how much of the item do you own, over and above any balance owed on it). The permissible exemptions usually have dollar limits to the amount of equity you can claim as exempt.

In order to identify which of your assets are exempt, you must know the exemptions allowed in your particular state, or whether your state uses the federal exemptions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

The undersigned acknowledges that Gateway Bankruptcy Group has given me a copy of this disclosure required by Bankruptcy Code § 527 (c).

Dated: _____

Debtor: _____

Joint Debtor: _____