UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Requirements for Commencing a New Bankruptcy Case

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I. Before You File

Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

This notice is for you if:

- **You are an individual filing for bankruptcy,** and
- **Your debts are primarily consumer debts.** *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under one of four different chapters of the Bankruptcy Code:

- Chapter 7 — Liquidation
- Chapter 11— Reorganization
- Chapter 12— Voluntary repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen
- Chapter 13— Voluntary repayment plan for individuals with regular income

You should have an attorney review your decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of chapter.

Chapter 7:		Liquidation
	$245	filing fee
	$75	administrative fee
+	$15	trustee surcharge
	$335	total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial difficulty preventing them from paying their debts and who are willing to allow their non-exempt property to be used to pay their creditors. The primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist for particular debts, and liens on property may still be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge.

You should know that even if you file chapter 7 and you receive a discharge, some debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible to pay:

- most taxes;
- most student loans;
- domestic support and property settlement obligations;

- most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

- fraud or theft;
- fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;
- intentional injuries that you inflicted; and
- death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A–1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A–2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form —the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A–2). The calculations on the form—sometimes called the *Means Test*—deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If your income is more than the median income for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

Chapter 11: Reorganization

	$1,167	filing fee
+	$550	administrative fee
	$1,717	total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

Read These Important Warnings

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to $250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

	$200	filing fee
+	$75	administrative fee
	$275	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

	$235	filing fee
+	$75	administrative fee
	$310	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

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, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not

discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

- domestic support obligations,
- most student loans,
- certain taxes,
- debts for fraud or theft,
- debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,
- most criminal fines and restitution obligations,
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,
- certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and
- certain long-term secured debts.

Warning: File Your Forms on Time

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to: http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy_forms.html#procedure.

Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences

- If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury—either orally or in writing—in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.
- All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Make sure the court has your mailing address

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure that you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days ***before*** you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional

course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from: http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.html.

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

II. Filing a Bankruptcy Case for Individuals (Chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13)

A. Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Official Form 101).

Clerk's Note: A separate Exhibit D is no longer required. Exhibit D is included in Part 5 of Official Form 101 as of December 1, 2015.

B. Filing Fee
Chapter 7 - $335.00
Chapter 11 (non-railroad) – $1,717.00
Chapter 11 (railroad) - $1,550.00
Chapter 12 - $275.00
Chapter 13 - $310.00

Or

Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments (Official Form 103A) with proposed order. Debtor(s) must be individual and must submit a signed Application for Court approval. Rule 1006(b), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

Or

Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived (Official Form 103B) with proposed order 11 USC §1930(f)(1). Use this form only if you are filing under chapter 7 and you meet the criteria to have the chapter 7 filing fee waived.

C. Declaration for Electronic Filing (Exhibit B-1 or B-2 to LBR Appendix 5005)
If case is filed electronically, must be executed by the debtor(s) and original submitted to the Court within seven (7) days in paper format. LBR, Appendix 5005, Part II (Electronic Filing and Service of Documents) paragraph C. (Signatures) sub-section 3.

Or

Statement About Your Social Security Numbers (Official Form 121)
If case is filed by pro se debtor(s) and received via the U.S. mail, must be executed by the individual debtor(s) and original submitted to the Court within seven (7) days in paper format.

D. Notice to Individual Consumer Debtor(s) (Director's Form 2010)

Clerk's Note: For individual debtor(s) without attorney representation only. Individual debtor(s) without attorney representation must review form 2010 and certify that notice has been obtained and read by signing Part 7 of Official Form 101. See Part I above for Form 2010.

E. Certificate of Budget and Credit Counseling Course with any Debtor Repayment Plan developed with credit agency
Required at filing for all individual debtors; 11 USC §521

Or

Motion for Exemption from Credit Counseling with Certificate of Exigent Circumstances.
See line 15 of the *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101).

F. List of Creditors (Master Mailing List "Matrix")
Names and addresses of all creditors of the debtor. Must be submitted with the petition. Rule 1007(a), Fed.R.Bankr.P. and LBR Appendix 1007-b-5.

For Individual Chapter 11 Cases Only: List of Creditors Who Have the 20 Largest Unsecured Claims Against You and Are Not Insiders (Official Form 104).

G. Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You (101A) and Statement About Payment of an Eviction Judgment Against You (101B).

Clerk's Note: Use Form 101A if your landlord has an eviction judgment against you. If you complete Form 101A and you want to stay in your residence for the first 30 days after you file, you must indicate that on the form. Use Form 101B if you have completed Form 101A and you want to stay in your rented residence for more than 30 days after you file for bankruptcy.

H. Schedules (Official Forms 106-Summary, 106-Declaration, A/ B, C, D, E/ F, G, H, I, J, J-2)

- Summary - Summary of Your Assets and Liabilities and Certain Statistical Information (Individuals)
- Declaration - Declaration About an Individual Debtor's Schedules (Official Form 106-Declaration)
- Schedule A/B – Property (Official Form 106A/B)
- Schedule C – The Property You Claim as Exempt (Official Form 106C)
- Schedule D – Creditors Who Have Claims Secured by Your Property (Official Form 106D)
- Schedule E/F - Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims (Official Form 106E/F)
- Schedule G - Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases (Official Form 106G)
- Schedule H – Your Co-Debtors (Official Form 106H)
- Schedule I – Your Income (Official Form 106I)
- Schedule J– Your Expenses (Official Form 106J); and Schedule J-2- Expenses for Separate Household of Debtor 2 (Official Form 106J-2)

Must be submitted within 14 days. Rule 1007(b) & (c), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

I. Your Statement of Financial Affairs for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Official Form 107). Must be submitted within 14 days. Rule 1007(b) & (c), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

J. Disclosure of Compensation of Attorney for Debtor.
Must be submitted within 14 days. 11 USC § 329 and Rule 2016(b), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

Or

Declaration and Signature of Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer with Notice to Debtor by Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer (Official Forms 119). Declaration must be submitted with the petition. 11 USC §110.

Clerk's Note: If filed electronically at the front counter, no additional copies are required. If filed by a pro se debtor using the U.S. Mail and a file stamped copy is to be returned to the debtor, an additional copy is required, plus a suitably sized, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage affixed.

If you file under chapter 7, you must also file:

- ***Statement of Intention for Individuals Filing Under Chapter 7*** (Official Form 108). Required if the debtor is an individual and the schedule of assets and liabilities contains consumer debts secured by property of the estate. Must be submitted within 30 days of filing of the petition or by the date set for the Section 341 first meeting of creditors, whichever is earlier. 11 USC § 521(2).

- ***Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income (Official Form 122A-1) and Means Test Calculation (Official Form 122A-2)***

  Or

- **Motion for Exemption from Means Test** 11 USC §707

If you file under chapter 11, you must also file:

- ***Chapter 11 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income*** (Official Form 122-B)

If you file under chapter 11 and qualify as a small business debtor (see LR 1020 (a)), within 14 days after you file your bankruptcy forms to open your case, you must also file your most recent:

- ❑ Balance sheet
- ❑ Statement of operations
- ❑ Cash-flow statement
- ❑ Federal income tax return

Clerk's Note: If you do not have these documents, you must file a statement made under penalty of perjury that you have not prepared a balance sheet, statement of operations, or cash-flow statement or you have not filed a federal tax return. If you file under chapter 11, you must file additional documents beyond the scope of these instructions. You should consult your attorney.

If you file under chapter 12, you must also file:

- **Chapter 12 Plan** (within 90 days after you file your bankruptcy forms to open your case)

If you file under chapter 13, you must also file:

- ***Chapter 13 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income and Calculation of Commitment Period*** (Official Form 122C-1)
- ***Chapter 13 Calculation of Your Disposable Income*** (Official Form 122C-2)
- ***Chapter 13 Plan***

III. Filing a Bankruptcy Case for Non-Individuals (Chapters 7 and 11)

A.* Voluntary *Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Official Form 201).
With *Attachment to Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy Under Chapter 11* (Official Form 201A)

Clerk's Note: Must be attached to petition if debtor is required to file periodic reports (e.g. forms 10K and 10Q) with the Securities & Exchange Commission pursuant to Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Act of 1934 and is requesting relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

B. Filing Fee
Chapter 7 - $335.00
Chapter 11 (non-railroad) – $1,717.00
Chapter 11 (railroad) - $1,550.00

Or

Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments (Official Form 103A) with proposed order. Debtor(s) must be individual and must submit a signed Application for Court approval. Rule 1006(b), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

Or

Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived (Official Form 103B) with proposed order 11 USC §1930(f)(1). Use this form only if you are filing under chapter 7 and you meet the

criteria to have the chapter 7 filing fee waived.

C. Declaration for Electronic Filing (Exhibit B-1 or B-2 to LBR Appendix 5005)
If case is filed electronically, must be executed by the debtor(s) and original submitted to the Court within seven (7) days in paper format. LBR, Appendix 5005, Part II (Electronic Filing and Service of Documents) paragraph C. (Signatures) sub-section 3.

Or

Statement About Your Social Security Numbers (Official Form 121)
If case is filed by pro se debtor(s) and received via the U.S. mail, must be executed by the individual debtor(s) and original submitted to the Court within seven (7) days in paper format.

D. List of Creditors (Master Mailing List "Matrix")
Names and addresses of all creditors of the debtor. Must be submitted with the petition. Rule 1007(a), Fed.R.Bankr.P. and LBR Appendix 1007-b-5.

E. Schedules (Official Forms 206-Summary, Declaration, A/ B, C, D, E/ F, G, H)

- Summary - Summary of Your Assets and Liabilities and Certain Statistical Information (Non-Individuals) (Official Form 206-Summary)
- Declaration - Declaration Under Penalty of Perjury for Non-Individual Debtors (Official Form 202)
- Schedule A/B – Property (Official Form 206A/B)
- Schedule D - Creditors Holding Secured Claims (Official Form 206D)
- Schedule E/F - Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims (Official Form 206E/F)
- Schedule G - Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases – Individuals (Official Form 206G)
- Schedule H – Your Co-Debtors (Official Form 206H)

Must be submitted within 14 days. Rule 1007(b) & (c), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

F. Statement of Financial Affairs (Official Form 207).
Must be submitted within 14 days. Rule 1007(b) & (c), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

G. Disclosure of Compensation of Attorney for Debtor.
Must be submitted within 14 days. 11 USC § 329 and Rule 2016(b), Fed.R.Bankr.P.

Or

Declaration and Signature of Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer with Notice to Debtor by Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer (Official Form 119).
Must be submitted with the petition. 11 USC §110.

Clerk's Note: If filed electronically at the front counter, no additional copies are required. If filed

by a pro se debtor using the U.S. Mail and a file stamped copy is to be returned to the debtor, an additional copy is required, plus a suitably sized, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage affixed.

H. **Statement of current income and current expenditures *(use forms specific to the chapter being filed)***

If you file under chapter 11 and qualify as a small business debtor, you must also file:

If you file under chapter 11 and qualify as a small business debtor (see Local Rule 1020(a)), within 14 days after you file your bankruptcy forms to open your case, you must also file your most recent:

- ❑ Balance sheet
- ❑ Statement of operations
- ❑ Cash-flow statement
- ❑ Federal income tax return

Clerk's Note: If you do not have these documents, you must file a statement made under penalty of perjury that you have not prepared a balance sheet, statement of operations, or cash-flow statement or you have not filed a federal tax return. If you file under chapter 11, you must file additional documents beyond the scope of these instructions. You should consult your attorney.

IV. Voluntary Chapter 15 Case

A. Petition for Recognition of Foreign Proceeding (Official Form 401).

B. Filing Fee of $1,717.00
C. Chapter 15 Service List

V. Involuntary Chapter 7 or 11 Case – Individual/Non-Individual

A. Involuntary Petition Against an Individual (Official Form 105).11 USC § 303.

Or

Involuntary Petition Against a Non-Individual (Official Form 205). 11 USC § 303.

B. Declaration for Electronic Filing (Exhibit B-1 or B-2 to LBR Appendix 5005)
If case is filed electronically, must be executed by the debtor and submitted to the Court within seven (7) days in paper format. LBR, Appendix 5005, Part II (Electronic Filing and Service of Documents) paragraph C. (Signatures) sub-section 3.

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

_____ District of _____
(State)

Case number (*If known*): _____

Chapter you are filing under:
- ❑ Chapter 7
- ❑ Chapter 11
- ❑ Chapter 12
- ❑ Chapter 13

❑ Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 101

Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

12/15

The bankruptcy forms use *you* and *Debtor 1* to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, these forms use *you* to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, "Do you own a car," the answer would be *yes* if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Part 1: Identify Yourself

	About Debtor 1:	About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
1. Your full name Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport). Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.	First name Middle name Last name Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)	First name Middle name Last name Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)
2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years Include your married or maiden names.	First name Middle name Last name First name Middle name Last name	First name Middle name Last name First name Middle name Last name
3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)	XXX – XX – ____ ____ ____ ____ OR 9 XX – XX – ____ ____ ____ ____	XXX – XX – ____ ____ ____ ____ OR 9 XX – XX – ____ ____ ____ ____

	About Debtor 1:	About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years Include trade names and *doing business as* names	❑ I have not used any business names or EINs. Business name Business name __ __ – __ __ __ __ __ __ __ EIN __ __ – __ __ __ __ __ __ __ EIN	❑ I have not used any business names or EINs. Business name Business name __ __ – __ __ __ __ __ __ __ EIN __ __ – __ __ __ __ __ __ __ EIN
5. Where you live	Number Street City State ZIP Code County **If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address. Number Street P.O. Box City State ZIP Code	**If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:** Number Street City State ZIP Code County **If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address. Number Street P.O. Box City State ZIP Code
6. Why you are choosing *this district* to file for bankruptcy	*Check one:* ❑ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district. ❑ I have another reason. Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)	*Check one:* ❑ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district. ❑ I have another reason. Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case

7. The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under

Check one. (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Form 2010)). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.

❑ Chapter 7

❑ Chapter 11

❑ Chapter 12

❑ Chapter 13

8. How you will pay the fee

❑ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition**. Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.

❑ **I need to pay the fee in installments**. If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).

❑ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.

9. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?

❑ No

❑ Yes. District _____ When _____ Case number _____
MM / DD / YYYY

District _____ When _____ Case number _____
MM / DD / YYYY

District _____ When _____ Case number _____
MM / DD / YYYY

10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?

❑ No

❑ Yes. Debtor _____ Relationship to you _____

District _____ When _____ Case number, if known_____
MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor _____ Relationship to you _____

District _____ When _____ Case number, if known_____
MM / DD / YYYY

11. Do you rent your residence?

❑ No. Go to line 12.

❑ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you and do you want to stay in your residence?

❑ No. Go to line 12.

❑ Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it with this bankruptcy petition.

Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor

12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

❑ No. Go to Part 4.

❑ Yes. Name and location of business

_____
Name of business, if any

_____
Number Street

_____

_____ _____ _____
City State ZIP Code

Check the appropriate box to describe your business:

❑ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))

❑ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))

❑ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))

❑ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))

❑ None of the above

13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and are you a *small business debtor*?

For a definition of *small business debtor*, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).

❑ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.

❑ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

❑ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention

14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?

For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?

❑ No

❑ Yes. What is the hazard? _____

_____

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed? _____

_____

Where is the property? _____
Number Street

_____

_____ _____ _____
City State ZIP Code

Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling

15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

About Debtor 1:

You must check one:

❑ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

❑ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

❑ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

❑ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

❑ **Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

❑ **Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

❑ **Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

You must check one:

❑ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

❑ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

❑ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

❑ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

❑ **Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

❑ **Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

❑ **Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes

16. What kind of debts do you have?

16a. **Are your debts primarily consumer debts?** *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

- ❑ No. Go to line 16b.
- ❑ Yes. Go to line 17.

16b. **Are your debts primarily business debts?** *Business debts* are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.

- ❑ No. Go to line 16c.
- ❑ Yes. Go to line 17.

16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts.

_____

17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?

Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?

- ❑ No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.
- ❑ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?
  - ❑ No
  - ❑ Yes

18. How many creditors do you estimate that you owe?

- ❑ 1-49
- ❑ 50-99
- ❑ 100-199
- ❑ 200-999
- ❑ 1,000-5,000
- ❑ 5,001-10,000
- ❑ 10,001-25,000
- ❑ 25,001-50,000
- ❑ 50,001-100,000
- ❑ More than 100,000

19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?

- ❑ $0-$50,000
- ❑ $50,001-$100,000
- ❑ $100,001-$500,000
- ❑ $500,001-$1 million
- ❑ $1,000,001-$10 million
- ❑ $10,000,001-$50 million
- ❑ $50,000,001-$100 million
- ❑ $100,000,001-$500 million
- ❑ $500,000,001-$1 billion
- ❑ $1,000,000,001-$10 billion
- ❑ $10,000,000,001-$50 billion
- ❑ More than $50 billion

20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?

- ❑ $0-$50,000
- ❑ $50,001-$100,000
- ❑ $100,001-$500,000
- ❑ $500,001-$1 million
- ❑ $1,000,001-$10 million
- ❑ $10,000,001-$50 million
- ❑ $50,000,001-$100 million
- ❑ $100,000,001-$500 million
- ❑ $500,000,001-$1 billion
- ❑ $1,000,000,001-$10 billion
- ❑ $10,000,000,001-$50 billion
- ❑ More than $50 billion

Part 7: Sign Below

For you

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11,12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to $250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 1

Executed on _____
MM / DD / YYYY

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on _____
MM / DD / YYYY

For your attorney, if you are represented by one

If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

✘ _____ Date _____
Signature of Attorney for Debtor MM / DD / YYYY

_____
Printed name

_____
Firm name

_____
Number Street

_____

_____ _____ _____
City State ZIP Code

Contact phone _____ Email address _____

_____ _____
Bar number State

For you if you are filing this bankruptcy without an attorney

If you are represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.

The law allows you, as an individual, to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, but **you should understand that many people find it extremely difficult to represent themselves successfully. Because bankruptcy has long-term financial and legal consequences, you are strongly urged to hire a qualified attorney.**

To be successful, you must correctly file and handle your bankruptcy case. The rules are very technical, and a mistake or inaction may affect your rights. For example, your case may be dismissed because you did not file a required document, pay a fee on time, attend a meeting or hearing, or cooperate with the court, case trustee, U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or audit firm if your case is selected for audit. If that happens, you could lose your right to file another case, or you may lose protections, including the benefit of the automatic stay.

You must list all your property and debts in the schedules that you are required to file with the court. Even if you plan to pay a particular debt outside of your bankruptcy, you must list that debt in your schedules. If you do not list a debt, the debt may not be discharged. If you do not list property or properly claim it as exempt, you may not be able to keep the property. The judge can also deny you a discharge of all your debts if you do something dishonest in your bankruptcy case, such as destroying or hiding property, falsifying records, or lying. Individual bankruptcy cases are randomly audited to determine if debtors have been accurate, truthful, and complete. **Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned.**

If you decide to file without an attorney, the court expects you to follow the rules as if you had hired an attorney. The court will not treat you differently because you are filing for yourself. To be successful, you must be familiar with the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the local rules of the court in which your case is filed. You must also be familiar with any state exemption laws that apply.

Are you aware that filing for bankruptcy is a serious action with long-term financial and legal consequences?

❑ No
❑ Yes

Are you aware that bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime and that if your bankruptcy forms are inaccurate or incomplete, you could be fined or imprisoned?

❑ No
❑ Yes

Did you pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help you fill out your bankruptcy forms?

❑ No
❑ Yes. Name of Person_____.
Attach *Bankruptcy Petition Preparer's Notice, Declaration, and Signature* (Official Form 119).

By signing here, I acknowledge that I understand the risks involved in filing without an attorney. I have read and understood this notice, and I am aware that filing a bankruptcy case without an attorney may cause me to lose my rights or property if I do not properly handle the case.

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 1

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

Contact phone _____

Cell phone _____

Email address _____

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 2

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

Contact phone _____

Cell phone _____

Email address _____

Fill in this information to identify your case:

Debtor 1 _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 _____
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: _____ District of _____
(State)

Case number _____
(If known)

❑ Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 103A

Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments

12/15

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information.

Part 1: Specify Your Proposed Payment Timetable

1. **Which chapter of the Bankruptcy Code are you choosing to file under?**

❑ Chapter 7
❑ Chapter 11
❑ Chapter 12
❑ Chapter 13

2. **You may apply to pay the filing fee in up to four installments. Fill in the amounts you propose to pay and the dates you plan to pay them. Be sure all dates are business days. Then add the payments you propose to pay.**

You must propose to pay the entire fee no later than 120 days after you file this bankruptcy case. If the court approves your application, the court will set your final payment timetable.

You propose to pay…		
$_____	❑ With the filing of the petition ❑ On or before this date.....	_____ MM / DD / YYYY
$_____	On or before this date.....	_____ MM / DD / YYYY
$_____	On or before this date.....	_____ MM / DD / YYYY
+ $_____	On or before this date.....	_____ MM / DD / YYYY
Total $_____	◀ Your total must equal the entire fee for the chapter you checked in line 1.	

Part 2: Sign Below

By signing here, you state that you are unable to pay the full filing fee at once, that you want to pay the fee in installments, and that you understand that:

- You must pay your entire filing fee before you make any more payments or transfer any more property to an attorney, bankruptcy petition preparer, or anyone else for services in connection with your bankruptcy case.
- You must pay the entire fee no later than 120 days after you first file for bankruptcy, unless the court later extends your deadline. Your debts will not be discharged until your entire fee is paid.
- If you do not make any payment when it is due, your bankruptcy case may be dismissed, and your rights in other bankruptcy proceedings may be affected.

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 1

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 2

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

✘ _____
Your attorney's name and signature, if you used one

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

Fill in this information to identify the case:

Debtor 1 _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 _____
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: _____ District of _____
(State)

Case number _____
(If known)

Chapter filing under:

- ❑ Chapter 7
- ❑ Chapter 11
- ❑ Chapter 12
- ❑ Chapter 13

Order Approving Payment of Filing Fee in Installments

After considering the *Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A), the court orders that:

[ ] The debtor(s) may pay the filing fee in installments on the terms proposed in the application.

[ ] The debtor(s) must pay the filing fee according to the following terms:

	You must pay…	**On or before this date…**
	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
+	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
Total	$_____	

Until the filing fee is paid in full, the debtor(s) must not make any additional payment or transfer any additional property to an attorney or to anyone else for services in connection with this case.

_____
Month / day / year

By the court: _____
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

_____ District of _____
State

Case number (*If known*): _____

Official Form 121

Statement About Your Social Security Numbers

12/15

Use this form to tell the court about any Social Security or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification numbers you have used. Do not file this form as part of the public case file. This form must be submitted separately and must not be included in the court's public electronic records. Please consult local court procedures for submission requirements.

To protect your privacy, the court will not make this form available to the public. You should not include a full Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Number on any other document filed with the court. The court will make only the last four digits of your numbers known to the public. However, the full numbers will be available to your creditors, the U.S. Trustee or bankruptcy administrator, and the trustee assigned to your case.

Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to $250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

Part 1: Tell the Court About Yourself and Your spouse if Your Spouse is Filing With You

	For Debtor 1:	For Debtor 2 (Only If Spouse Is Filing):
1. Your name	_____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name	_____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name

Part 2: Tell the Court About all of Your Social Security or Federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers

2. All Social Security Numbers you have used	___ ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ ❑ You do not have a Social Security number.	___ ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ ❑ You do not have a Social Security number.
3. All federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) you have used	9 ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ 9 ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ ❑ You do not have an ITIN.	9 ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ 9 ___ ___ – ___ ___ – ___ ___ ___ ___ ❑ You do not have an ITIN.

Part 3: Sign Below

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that the information I have provided in this form is true and correct.	Under penalty of perjury, I declare that the information I have provided in this form is true and correct.
✘ _____ Signature of Debtor 1	✘ _____ Signature of Debtor 2
Date _____ MM / DD / YYYY	Date _____ MM / DD / YYYY

Fill in this information to identify your case:

Debtor 1 _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 _____
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: _____ District of _____

Case number _____
(If known)

☐ Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 103B

Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived

12/15

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).

Part 1: Tell the Court About Your Family and Your Family's Income

1. What is the size of your family?
Your family includes you, your spouse, and any dependents listed on *Schedule J: Your Expenses* (Official Form 106J).

Check all that apply:

☐ You
☐ Your spouse
☐ Your dependents _____ How many dependents?

_____ Total number of people

2. Fill in your family's average monthly income.

Include your spouse's income if your spouse is living with you, even if your spouse is not filing.

Do not include your spouse's income if you are separated and your spouse is not filing with you.

Add your income and your spouse's income. Include the value (if known) of any non-cash governmental assistance that you receive, such as food stamps (benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or housing subsidies.

If you have already filled out *Schedule I: Your Income,* see line 10 of that schedule.

		That person's average monthly net income (take-home pay)
You		$_____
Your spouse	+	$_____
Subtotal.....		$_____
Subtract any non-cash governmental assistance that you included above.	−	$_____
Your family's average monthly net income Total.....		$_____

3. Do you receive non-cash governmental assistance?

☐ No
☐ Yes. Describe.....

Type of assistance

4. Do you expect your family's average monthly net income to increase or decrease by more than 10% during the next 6 months?

☐ No
☐ Yes. Explain. .....

5. Tell the court why you are unable to pay the filing fee in installments within 120 days. If you have some additional circumstances that cause you to not be able to pay your filing fee in installments, explain them.

Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Monthly Expenses

6. Estimate your average monthly expenses.
Include amounts paid by any government assistance that you reported on line 2.

If you have already filled out *Schedule J, Your Expenses,* copy line 22 from that form.

$_____

7. Do these expenses cover anyone who is not included in your family as reported in line 1?

☐ No
☐ Yes. Identify who.....

8. Does anyone other than you regularly pay any of these expenses?
If you have already filled out *Schedule I: Your Income*, copy the total from line 11.

☐ No
☐ Yes. How much do you regularly receive as contributions? $_____ monthly

9. Do you expect your average monthly expenses to increase or decrease by more than 10% during the next 6 months?

☐ No
☐ Yes. Explain .....

Part 3: Tell the Court About Your Property

If you have already filled out *Schedule A/B: Property (Official Form 106A/B)* attach copies to this application and go to Part 4.

10. How much cash do you have?
Examples: Money you have in your wallet, in your home, and on hand when you file this application

Cash: $_____

11. Bank accounts and other deposits of money?
Examples: Checking, savings, money market, or other financial accounts; certificates of deposit; shares in banks, credit unions, brokerage houses, and other similar institutions. If you have more than one account with the same institution, list each. Do not include 401(k) and IRA accounts.

	Institution name:	Amount:
Checking account:	_____	$_____
Savings account:	_____	$_____
Other financial accounts:	_____	$_____
Other financial accounts:	_____	$_____

12. Your home? (if you own it outright or are purchasing it)

Examples: House, condominium, manufactured home, or mobile home

_____
Number Street
_____
City State ZIP Code

Current value: $_____
Amount you owe on mortgage and liens: $_____

13. Other real estate?

_____
Number Street
_____
City State ZIP Code

Current value: $_____
Amount you owe on mortgage and liens: $_____

14. The vehicles you own?

Examples: Cars, vans, trucks, sports utility vehicles, motorcycles, tractors, boats

Make: _____
Model: _____
Year: _____
Mileage _____

Current value: $_____
Amount you owe on liens: $_____

Make: _____
Model: _____
Year: _____
Mileage _____

Current value: $_____
Amount you owe on liens: $_____

15. Other assets?

Do not include household items and clothing.

Describe the other assets:

Current value: $_____

Amount you owe on liens: $_____

16. Money or property due you?

Examples: Tax refunds, past due or lump sum alimony, spousal support, child support, maintenance, divorce or property settlements, Social Security benefits, workers' compensation, personal injury recovery

Who owes you the money or property?	**How much is owed?**	Do you believe you will likely receive payment in the next 180 days?
_____	$_____	☐ No
_____	$_____	☐ Yes. Explain:

Part 4: Answer These Additional Questions

17. Have you paid anyone for services for this case, including filling out this application, the bankruptcy filing package, or the schedules?

☐ No
☐ Yes. **Whom did you pay?** *Check all that apply:*
- ☐ An attorney
- ☐ A bankruptcy petition preparer, paralegal, or typing service
- ☐ Someone else _____

How much did you pay? $_____

18. Have you promised to pay or do you expect to pay someone for services for your bankruptcy case?

☐ No
☐ Yes. **Whom do you expect to pay?** *Check all that apply:*
- ☐ An attorney
- ☐ A bankruptcy petition preparer, paralegal, or typing service
- ☐ Someone else _____

How much do you expect to pay? $_____

19. Has anyone paid someone on your behalf for services for this case?

☐ No
☐ Yes. **Who was paid on your behalf?** *Check all that apply:*
- ☐ An attorney
- ☐ A bankruptcy petition preparer, paralegal, or typing service
- ☐ Someone else _____

Who paid? *Check all that apply:*
- ☐ Parent
- ☐ Brother or sister
- ☐ Friend
- ☐ Pastor or clergy
- ☐ Someone else _____

How much did someone else pay? $_____

20. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?

☐ No
☐ Yes. District _____ When _____ (MM/ DD/ YYYY) Case number _____

District _____ When _____ (MM/ DD/ YYYY) Case number _____

District _____ When _____ (MM/ DD/ YYYY) Case number _____

Part 5: Sign Below

By signing here under penalty of perjury, I declare that I cannot afford to pay the filing fee either in full or in installments. I also declare that the information I provided in this application is true and correct.

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 1

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

✘ _____
Signature of Debtor 2

Date _____
MM / DD / YYYY

Fill in this information to identify the case:

Debtor 1 _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 _____
(Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: _____ District of _____

Case number _____
(If known)

Order on the Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived

After considering the debtor's *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B), the court orders that the application is:

[ ] Granted. However, the court may order the debtor to pay the fee in the future if developments in administering the bankruptcy case show that the waiver was unwarranted.

[ ] Denied. The debtor must pay the filing fee according to the following terms:

	You must pay…	**On or before this date…**
	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
+	$_____	_____ Month / day / year
Total		

If the debtor would like to propose a different payment timetable, the debtor must file a motion promptly with a payment proposal. The debtor may use *Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A) for this purpose. The court will consider it.

The debtor must pay the entire filing fee before making any more payments or transferring any more property to an attorney, bankruptcy petition preparer, or anyone else in connection with the bankruptcy case. The debtor must also pay the entire filing fee to receive a discharge. If the debtor does not make any payment when it is due, the bankruptcy case may be dismissed and the debtor's rights in future bankruptcy cases may be affected.

[ ] Scheduled for hearing.

A hearing to consider the debtor's application will be held

on _____ at _____ AM / PM at _____.
Month / day / year Address of courthouse

If the debtor does not appear at this hearing, the court may deny the application.

_____ **By the court:** _____
Month / day / year United States Bankruptcy Judge

Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

This notice is for you if:

- **You are an individual filing for bankruptcy,** and
- **Your debts are primarily consumer debts.** *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under one of four different chapters of the Bankruptcy Code:

- Chapter 7 — Liquidation
- Chapter 11— Reorganization
- Chapter 12— Voluntary repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen
- Chapter 13— Voluntary repayment plan for individuals with regular income

You should have an attorney review your decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of chapter.

Chapter 7: Liquidation

	$245	filing fee
	$75	administrative fee
+	$15	trustee surcharge
	$335	total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial difficulty preventing them from paying their debts and who are willing to allow their non-exempt property to be used to pay their creditors. The primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist for particular debts, and liens on property may still be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge.

You should know that even if you file chapter 7 and you receive a discharge, some debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible to pay:

- most taxes;
- most student loans;
- domestic support and property settlement obligations;

- most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

- fraud or theft;
- fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;
- intentional injuries that you inflicted; and
- death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A–1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A–2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form —the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A–2). The calculations on the form—sometimes called the *Means Test*—deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If your income is more than the median income for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

Chapter 11: Reorganization

	$1,167	filing fee
+	$550	administrative fee
	$1,717	total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

Read These Important Warnings

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to $250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

	$200	filing fee
+	$75	administrative fee
	$275	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

	$235	filing fee
+	$75	administrative fee
	$310	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

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, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

- domestic support obligations,
- most student loans,
- certain taxes,
- debts for fraud or theft,
- debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,
- most criminal fines and restitution obligations,
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,
- certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and
- certain long-term secured debts.

Warning: File Your Forms on Time

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to: http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy_forms.html#procedure.

Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences

- If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury—either orally or in writing—in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.
- All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Make sure the court has your mailing address

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure that you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days ***before*** you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from: http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.html.

In Alabama and North Carolina, go to: http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/ApprovedCreditAndDebtCounselors.aspx.

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE:

_____	_____
Debtor(s)	Bankruptcy Case Number

VERIFICATION OF CREDITOR MATRIX

The above named Debtor(s) hereby verifies that the attached list of creditors is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

Date: _____ _____
Debtor Signature

Date: _____ _____
Joint Debtor Signature

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF A MASTER MAILING LIST

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I. GENERAL

A. FORMAT FOR FILING

1. The Clerk of the Court strongly urges the original or amended Master Mailing Lists be submitted in electronic format via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system. (See Reports in CM/ECF)
2. Mailing lists submitted incorrectly may be required to be resubmitted.
3. The Clerk of Court may authorize other electronic media in the future.

B. NAME AND ADDRESS STANDARDS

The following standards apply to all Master Mailing lists submitted to this Court:

1. All names and addresses must be complete and accurate. Notices shall not be sent out by the Clerk to any entity with an incomplete or missing address.
2. If the case number is known it should appear on the first line, followed by two (2) blank lines. Begin the first creditor on the fourth line.
3. When listing creditors in care of an attorney, always put the creditor's name on line 1 and the attorney's name on line 2. For example:

CORRECT	INCORRECT
ABC Supply Company	Debra Jones
c/o Debra Jones, Attorney	Attorney for ABC Supply Company

4. Do not include the debtor, joint debtor, attorney(s) for the debtor(s), the district court clerk, case trustee, or United States Trustee on the Maser Mailing List. These parties will be entered by the Clerk's Office at the time of case opening.
5. Creditors shall be listed ONLY ONCE, even if they have more than one account with, or claim against, the debtor.
6. Each name and address must consist of at least two but not more than five lines, each forty characters or less in length. For example:

Line 1: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Line 2: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Line 3: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Line 4: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Line 5: City, State ZIP or ZIP+4

7. "Care of" and "attention" designations may be included ONLY on the second line of the name and address, as long as the complete name and address block consists of no more than five lines.
8. No personal forms of address, titles, indefinite articles, or definite articles should precede the name. Personal forms of address and titles may be used *after* the name, but only as necessary to specifically identify someone.

9. Names of individuals must appear in the following order: first name, middle name or initial, last name.
10. Creditors must be listed alphabetically, according to the first letter of the company name or first name.
11. Only postal standard abbreviations, as directed by the United States Postal Service in the official USPS Publication *Postal Addressing Standards*, shall be used in addresses. The name of the state must be abbreviated using the upper case, two-letter state identifier prescribed by the United States Postal Service (e.g. TX not Tex or Tx). City names less than 15 characters in length shall not be abbreviated.
12. The use of ZIP codes is MANDATORY. All domestic addresses must include the correct five-digit ZIP code. Domestic addresses that do not include a ZIP code will be treated as incomplete (See item 1, above). All ZIP code extensions must follow a hyphen and shall consist of four digits (for example, 75702-0012 NOT 75702-12). DO NOT use the ZIP code extension "0000" unless it is valid for the creditor.
13. For domestic mail, the last line of every address MUST contain EACH of the following items IN THIS ORDER: the city, the two character state abbreviation WITHOUT periods BUT in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS, and AT THE END, the ZIP code. *DO NOT* include any information for the creditor below the city, state, and ZIP.
14. All foreign addresses shall include the COMPLETE name of the country to which the mail will be sent. Country names *SHALL NOT* be abbreviated.
15. Except for hyphens in nine digit zip codes, no special character shall be included in names or addresses:

DO NOT use the letter "l" as a substitute for the number "1"
DO NOT use the % (percent sign) as a substitute for c/o ("in care of")
DO NOT use \ (backslash) as a substitute for / (slash or forward slash)
DO NOT use + (plus sign) for either "and" or & (ampersand)
DO NOT use ~ (tilde) as a substitute for – (dash)
DO NOT use { } (braces) or [ ] (brackets) as a substitute for ( ) parentheses)

16. Like correspondence, names and address shall be typed in both upper and lower case letters. Except to abbreviate the name of the state, do not use all uppercase letters.
17. There should be no punctuation included, except the hyphen in the ZIP code
18. Lists shall be typed in a single aligned column.
19. There must be two blank lines between one creditor's name and address and another's. Do not leave blank lines within an address.

II. GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A HARD (PAPER) COPY

A. ACCEPTABLE

1. The hard-copy list shall be printed in black, on a white 8.5" x 11" bond or standard copy paper.
2. Font should be Times New Roman, Courier New, Universe, or Arial, 12 point.
3. The type must be of high quality. Poor quality type from a depleted printer cartridge, dot matrix printer, photocopy or carbon, exhausted typewriter ribbon, or fabric typewriter ribbons are electronically unreadable and must not be used.
4. If the case number is known it should appear on the first line, followed by two (2) blank lines. Begin the first creditor on the fourth line
5. The hard-copy list shall contain no handwriting, stray marks, correction fluid or tape.
6. Names and addresses must appear on one side of each page only. Do not use the back of the paper.
7. The first name and address on each page of the list may not be closer than two inches from the top of the page and should be no closer that one-half inch from the left side, right side, or bottom of the page.
8. The hard-copy Master Address List must be submitted as a clean, totally separate document. Any marks (including letterhead, dates, names, pager numbers, coffee stains, handwriting or multiple columns) must be avoided as they may cause the entry of incorrect data.
9. DO NOT STAPLE TOGETHER OR TWO-HOLE PUNCH PAGES OF THE <u>ORIGINAL</u> HARD-COPY MASTER ADDRESS LIST.
10. Although the court is using sophisticated equipment and software to insure accuracy in creditor list reading, certain problems can still occur. By following these guidelines, the court will avoid delays or additional effort in mailing notices.

B. UNACCEPTABLE

The following problems can prevent your matrix from being read by the optical scanner, requiring you to re-submit your creditor list in an acceptable form.

1. *Extra marks on the lists* - such as letterhead, dates, coffee stains, handwritten marks, page number.
2. *Non-standard paper* such as onionskin, half-sized paper, or colored paper. 8 ½ by 11", 20 lb. paper is acceptable
3. *Poor quality printing* caused by low toner in the printer cartridge.
4. *Unreadable type fonts* or print types such as dot matrix or exotic fonts. Please use: Times New Roman .12, Courier .12, or Universe .12
5. *Misaligned lists* caused by inserting the paper in the printer crooked.
6. *Zip Code* not on the last line. Nine digit zip codes should be used with a hyphen separating the two groups of digits. Attention lines, in care of (c/o) should NOT

be on the last line, they should be on the second line if needed. The zip code must be at the end of the last line.

7. *Punctuation* - There should be no commas or periods in any part of the address. There should be 2 spaces between the state and zip code. When typing a post office box (PO) do not use periods.
8. *Upper Case Only* (all capital letters) should be avoided. Type in upper and lower case as you would on a letter. Left justify all lines.

III. GUIDELINES FOR ELECTRONIC FILING OF THE MATRIX

A. File matrix separately

1. Save the file as generic *ASCII Text format.* The extension that your word processing application or bankruptcy software gives it is usually compatible with the Court's Electronic Filing System.
2. You must include the case number issued by the Court on the first line of the matrix followed by two (2) blank lines. You can then begin with the first creditor on the fourth line.
3. Name the file any name that is consistent with the naming standards of your company or that will be readily recognizable to you when searching for the file during the upload process.

B. Case Upload

1. If you are using a bankruptcy software program such as Bankruptcy Pro, the matrix will automatically be uploaded in proper format when the case is uploaded. It should not be filed separately per LBR 1007(a)1(A), because the case upload program satisfies that requirement.