

CONSUMER DEBT

WHAT is consumer debt?

Money borrowed from a lender for personal, family, or household use such as a credit card, medical bill, home mortgage, or auto loan. It is not associated with a business.

I can't make my payment.

What should I do?

- Contact your creditor
- Contact Shore Legal Access

KEY TERMS

Default

You have not made payments on your debt.

Creditor

Individuals or entities who have lent you money.

Property Lien

Allows your property to be seized and sold if you can't pay your debt.

Wage

Garnishment

Allows money to be taken out of your paycheck (no more than 25% of your earnings per pay period) until you pay back your debt.

Bank

Garnishment

Allows money to be taken out of your bank account until you pay back your debt.

How does consumer debt impact me?

It can hurt your ability to make large purchases such as a home or car, qualify for new loans or credit cards, lead to loss of personal property and/or a court case.

How can I protect myself?

Keep receipts of all payments, documents related to your debt, and any evidence you tried to address your debt with your creditor.

What are my options to resolve consumer debt?

- Settle your debt
- Request mediation
- Negotiate a payment plan with your creditor

I RECEIVED A SUMMONS. WHAT NOW?

CONFIRM THEY HAVE THE CORRECT PERSON AND AMOUNT OWED

CONTACT SHORE LEGAL ACCESS

FILE AND MAIL NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEFEND WITHIN 15 DAYS OF RECEIVING SUMMONS

RECEIVE SUPPORT IN PREPARATION OF COURT DATE

ATTEND COURT DATE

What happens if the court rules against me?

The court can allow the creditor to collect from you via property lien or wage or bank garnishment.



GET HELP



SCAN & LEARN MORE

410.690.8128
shorelegal.org