

Collection Lawsuit Defense Guide

COLLECTION LAWSUIT DEFENSE GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. SHOULD YOU ANSWER THE COMPLAINT?	1
II. POTENTIAL DEFENSES	2
III. TIME TO ANSWER & HOW TO GET MORE TIME	3
IV. WHETHER TO SETTLE AND HOW YOU CAN SETTLE YOUR CASE	4 - 5
V. SAMPLE LETTERS YOU CAN SEND TO SETTLE YOUR CASE	6 - 7
VI. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE 'JUDGMENT-PROOF', AND HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WAGE GARNISHMENTS AND BANK LEVIES	8-12
VII. HOW TO ANSWER, INCLUDING SAMPLE ANSWER PACKET	13 - 21
VIII. TIPS FOR DEALING WITH DEBT COLLECTORS	22
IX. SAMPLE LETTER REQUESTING ADDITIONAL TIME TO ANSWER	23
X. SAMPLE LETTERS TO DEBT COLLECTORS	24 - 25
XI. COLLECTION COMMUNICATION LOG	26
XII. A LEGAL DOCUMENT YOU CAN'T IGNORE	27

SHOULD I ANSWER THE COMPLAINT? DO I NEED TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT?

If you don't owe the debt over which you are being sued or have a complete defense (see "Most Common Defenses to Collection Complaints" on page 2), you should of course answer the complaint.

If you have no assets, you might not need to answer the complaint. See "What does it mean to be 'Judgment-Proof'" on page 8.

QUESTION: What if I feel I owe the debt and want to settle? Should I still file an answer?

ANSWER: You MAY get a better deal if you answer, so you **should** probably answer if you want to work out a settlement agreement. BUT filing an answer typically requires you to pay the court a fee, which can range from \$225 to \$435 depending on the amount claimed in the lawsuit. Therefore you may want to explore an extension of time to answer while you negotiate. See 'Requesting an Extension to Answer' on page 3.

QUESTION: What can they take from me if I do not answer?

ANSWER: Banks and collection agencies historically have enforced judgments in the following three ways, and only the following three ways:

- **Wage Garnishment**: the company holding the judgment can garnish <u>up to</u> 25% of your post-tax wages. There are additional protections for low-wage workers; see pages 9 & 10 for additional details.
- Bank Levy: if the company holding the judgment knows (or finds out) where you bank they can completely drain your bank account. There are protections for individuals who get federal benefits and some types of state welfare benefits. See page 11 for additional details.
- Real Property Lien: A lien is a kind of security interest like a mortgage. It allows the company holding the judgment to get paid if your house gets sold or refinanced.

QUESTION: Can the company holding the judgment use it to take my house or car?

ANSWER: This is *theoretically* possible but it almost surely won't happen. The KGACLC is not aware of a single instance of this happening to enforce a credit card debt against a Santa Clara County resident.

MOST COMMON DEFENSES TO CREDIT CARD COLLECTION SUITS

A. The Statute of Limitations

A suit based on your credit card account is probably subject to California's statute of limitations, which is four years. The four years starts to run from the later of: A) the date of your last payment; or B) the last time you used the card. Let's say you last used your card in July of 2014 and last paid in October of 2014. A suit filed in December of 2018 is more than four years from either of those dates and therefore you can completely defeat the suit by asserting the defense that the claim is barred by the statute of limitations.

If you have a copy of your credit card terms and conditions (or can get it online) you should check to see if the terms say that Delaware or Virginia law applies. If so, the statute of limitations is just **three** years.

B. Identity theft

If you are being sued about a debt you know nothing about, you are probably a victim of identity theft. In addition to answering, you should file a police report with the police department in the town or city in which you live. In addition, you should visit: https://www.identitytheft.gov/.

C. Special Rule for Credit Card Purchases

Do you have a dispute about a specific charge on your credit card statement? For example, did a merchant fail to deliver the goods you charged, or were the goods defective? The Special Rule, which is set out at 15 USC §1666i (just google '15 USC 1666i') allows you to raise these defenses in the credit card collection suit.

If you think you have a good defense, you should answer. See pages 3 & 4 below

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT?

Your last date to answer depends on when and how you were 'served'. If someone handed you the summons and complaint (personal service) you have 30 days from the day the papers were handed to you. If the 30th day falls on a weekend or holiday, you can file your answer on the next day the courthouse is open.

If someone handed the papers to a housemate or co-worker and then mailed a second copy to you ('subservice') you were served on the tenth day after the papers were mailed to you (if you still have the envelope, check the postmark). **Your answer should be filed within 30 calendar days after you were served.** If the 30th day after service falls on a weekend or holiday, you have until the next day the courthouse is open to file the answer with the court. Even if you missed the deadline, you can still file your answer until the plaintiff has filed a Request for Entry of Default. You should know whether or not an Entry of Default has been requested because the plaintiff is required to send you a copy in the mail. You can also check online at https://cmportal.sescourt.org/Portal/

REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO ANSWER

The Santa Clara County Code of Professionalism (Section 4) tells lawyers they should grant reasonable requests for extensions of time. Lawyers regularly seek and receive two week extensions to answer complaints. Therefore, **you** should expect to get such an extension too. If you can find the plaintiff's lawyers email address that is probably the easiest way to request an extension. The lawyer's email address is sometimes on the summons and/or complaint and is usually listed on the bar website here:

http://members.calbar.ca.gov/fal/MemberSearch/QuickSearch Put the short title and case number in the subject line and just type something simple like "I am requesting a two-week extension to respond to the above-referenced complaint. Please let me know." If you are considering making a settlement offer it will often makes sense to request an extension of time while you explore settlement (see examples on pages 6, 7 and & 23).

SETTLING THE COLLECTION LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST YOU

First off, make sure you don't have a defense to the suit against you before you to decide to settle (see page 2). Also, you should not offer to settle if you are judgment-proof (see page 8).

There are two ways most collection suits get settled: in a lump sum, or in payments.

Advantages of lump sum settlements:

- * SAVINGS: You can usually get a substantial discount off the debt if you offer one large payment. Discounts of up 33% are common for original creditors and discounts of up to 70% for debt buyers are common.
- * FINALITY: You can get the case against you dismissed with prejudice (forever) almost as soon as you make your payment.

<u>Disadvantages of lump sum settlements</u>: The only real disadvantage is that the savings described above technically constitutes "debt forgiveness". IRS regulations *require* the plaintiff to send you a 1099 for the amount of the forgiveness if it is above \$600. The IRS considers 'debt forgiveness' to be the same as income.

Example: You owe \$2,000 and agree to pay \$1,000 to settle. The plaintiff will report to the IRS that you received income in the form of debt forgiveness in the amount of \$1,000.

If you decide to make a lump sum settlement offer, it is crucial that you get the agreement IN WRITING. See pages 6 & 7 for examples of how to get an agreement in writing.

Advantages of payment plans: In truth, there are not as many advantages to payment plans but most consumers simply don't have the money to make a lump sum payment. However, most plaintiffs will agree to waive (give up) the right to interest, court costs and attorneys fees if a defendant agrees to a payment plan and makes all the payments on time. Payment plans allow consumers to make affordable monthly payments over months or years.

<u>Disadvantages of payment plans</u>: Most plaintiffs will not agree to a payment plan unless you agree that if you miss a payment, judgment will be entered for the full amount of the debt (including interest, court costs and attorneys fees) immediately. This means that you can make timely payments for years but miss one payment and have judgment entered for the full amount of the debt (minus the payments that you did make). Therefore it is crucial that you are able to **afford** any payment you agree to make. Plaintiffs will not usually agree to substantially reduce the debt as part of a payment plan, but they will sometimes agree to small discounts. (For example, if you owe \$3,135, you can ask the plaintiff to accept payment totaling \$2,000, but it is **highly unlikely** such an offer would be accepted; it is much more likely that a plaintiff would accept payments totaling \$3,000).

Negotiating tips

- If offering a lump sum, start by offering to pay a portion of the original debt. Creditors will sometimes accept as little as 1/3 of the debt.
- Some collection employees get bonuses based on their collections in a month; therefore you may get a better deal toward the end of the month if you promise to pay before the last day of the month.
- If offering a payment plan decide beforehand the most you can pay, and don't go any higher than you can afford. If you miss a payment, a judgment will be entered against you.
- Make sure that any agreement you make is in writing. Send your agreement by mail or email, and request the debt collector respond to your agreement in writing.
- If you are seriously considering bankruptcy, say so.
- Never disclose where you work or bank. If you do make a payment, don't send a check from your own bank. Send a money order.

Review the sample letters below.

You should use these letters <u>only if</u> you are willing and able to negotiate a settlement. Do not offer to pay more than you can. Rewrite the letter as necessary to fit your situation. Keep a copy of your letter and all communications with your creditor / debt collector.

A sample lump sum settlement offer is on page 6.

A sample payment plan settlement offer is on page 7.

You should address either letter to the lawyer who is representing the plaintiff.

	
	Date:
	Re:
	(Case Number or Lawyer's File Number)
To Whom it May Concern:	
•	
	experiencing significant financial hardship and I am unable propose the following settlement agreement.
that I can pay due to my financial situ near future. Please respond by mail	\$ to satisfy my obligation to you. This is all uation, and I do not foresee my situation improving in the to my offer. If you choose to accept it, please indicate in m any further obligation on this account in exchange for my ount.
Please cease all communication by participated cooperation and understa	hone regarding this matter. I thank you in advance for your nding in this matter.
	Sincerely,

	Date:
	Dav
	Re: (Case Number or Lawyer's File Number)
To Whom it May Concern:	
This letter is to inform you that I am experpay on my account as obligated. I propose	riencing significant financial hardship and am unable to the following settlement agreement.
satisfy my obligation to you. This is all th	n monthly payments in the amount of \$ to at I can pay due to my financial situation, and I do not future. Please respond in writing to my offer.
Please cease all communication by phone anticipated cooperation and understanding	regarding this matter. I thank you in advance for your in this matter.
	Sincerely,

ARE YOU 'JUDGMENT-PROOF'?

'Judgment-proof' is a bit of misleading term because it doesn't mean the plaintiff can't get a judgment against you; it means the plaintiff can't **collect** a judgment against you. A 'typical' judgment-proof person is an individual with no real property and no wages who receives Social Security and keeps less than two months' worth of Social Security in his/her bank account. However, some wage-earners are also judgment-proof. The next few pages describe how creditors enforce judgments and should give you enough information to know whether or not you are judgment-proof. If you are permanently judgment-proof, you can safely ignore any lawsuits that are filed against you. If, after reading this guide, you are not sure whether or not you are judgment-proof, call us for an advice appointment.

ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS

As stated above, the collection industry focuses exclusively on three judgment enforcement methods: wage garnishments, bank levies and real property liens.

Real Property Liens

If you own real property, you can be sure that the judgment creditor will record an 'abstract of judgment', which places a lien on your home. As a practical matter, a judgment creditor cannot force the sale of your home because of an unpaid judgment¹. However, the lien will remain on your home until you pay the underlying judgment OR sell OR refinance the home. If you sell or refinance, the judgment creditor will receive payment on the judgment out of escrow. Judgments bear interest at a high rate: ten percent. This means a \$10,000 lien will create a \$20,000 lien after ten years.

On the one hand, you are not judgment-proof if you have a lot of equity in your home. This is because the creditor <u>will</u> get paid when the house is eventually sold or refinance. On the other hand, you may decide to allow a plaintiff to get a judgment against you if you don't have a defense and can't afford to settle the debt. You can still send the 'judgment-proof letter' on page 24 to stop collection communications.

Depending on the amount of equity in your home you may or may not be a good candidate for Bankruptcy. If you want advice on whether or not you are a good candidate for bankruptcy, you can call the Law Center for an appointment² (408) 288-7030 or you can call the Santa Clara County Bar's Lawyer Referral Service: 408.971-6822.

¹ (Dang v. Smith (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 646, 663)

²The Law Center won't represent you in a Bankruptcy case but we will advise you as to whether or not you are a good candidate for Bankruptcy.

CALIFORNIA WAGE PROTECTIONS³

The forty times the minimum wage rule: Nobody can garnish your wages unless you are earning more than forty times the minimum wage per week at *that* particular job. For instance, if you are making minimum wage at two jobs and you work 30 hours a week at each job, neither paycheck can be garnished. Because many cities have minimum wage rates that are higher than the California minimum wage, the amount of wages that are protected depends on where you work. Please consult the chart below to determine how much of your wages are protected.

Where you work	2018		2019		2020				
	Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Hourly	Weekly	Monthly
California	\$10.50- \$11*	\$420- \$440*	\$1,820 - \$1,906*	\$11 - \$12*	\$440 - \$480*	\$1,906 - \$2,080*	\$12 - \$13*	\$480 - \$520*	\$2,080 - \$2,253*
Cupertino	\$13.50	\$540	\$2,340	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**
Los Altos	\$13.50	\$540	\$2,340	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**
Milpitas	\$12	\$480	\$2080	\$13.50	\$540	\$2,340	\$15	\$600	\$2,600
Mountain View	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**
Palo Alto	\$13.50	\$540	\$2,340	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**
San Jose	\$13.50	\$540	\$2,340	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**
Santa Clara	\$13	\$520	\$2,253	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**
Sunnyvale	\$15	\$600	\$2,600	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**	TBD**

^{*} Use the bottom end of the range if your employer has 25 or fewer employees; use the top end if it has 26 or more ** TBD means there IS an increase planned but it is To Be Determined by the Consumer Price Index. A good estimate would be about 2% higher than the prior year's numbers.

If you work in Santa Clara County and you don't see the city where you work, use the California figures. If you work outside of Santa Clara County you should perform an internet search to determine if the city you work in has a higher minimum wage than California.

If your after-tax (net) pay is less than 40 times the minimum wage your wages are *automatically* protected. That means a wage garnishment notice will essentially be ignored by your employer so long as you earn less than 40 times the minimum wage per week.

³ We focus on your rights under California law because when it comes to wage garnishment, all of your protections are as strong or stronger under state law than federal law.

The Seventy-Five Percent Rule

If you are sued on a consumer debt and a judgment is entered against you, a wage garnishment can never be for more than 25% percent of your net (after tax) wages. The rule protecting 75% of your wages is automatic. Unfortunately most consumers cannot afford to live on 75% of their wages. The necessities rule may protect more than 75% of your net wages.

The Necessities Rule

The good news is that if you can prove you need more than 75% of your wages to pay for necessities for yourself and those that depend on you, you can protect that amount, up to your entire paycheck. But this protection is NOT automatic. You must wait until your wages are garnished and then - within ten days - submit forms to prove that your wages are needed for necessities⁴. If your claim is unopposed by the judgment creditor, you will stop the garnishment and get your garnished wages back. But if the claim is opposed, there will be a hearing in court where you will be expected to bring evidence of all your income and expenses. This procedure could take a month or two, during which time the garnishment will continue. Finally, many judges seem reluctant to allow a judgment debtor to keep all of their wages. In summary, even if you feel you can prove that you need all your wages to support yourself today, you should not assume the necessities rule will protect you in the future because:

- * your wages may increase
- * your expenses may decrease
- * the court has broad discretion to decide what your necessities budget should be.

⁴ To see an example of completed forms to stop a garnishment, see https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/sbs-claim-of-exemption-wage-garnishment.pdf

BANK ACCOUNT PROTECTIONS

The Two Months' Worth of Federal Benefits Rule

This rule protects individuals who get direct deposit of federal benefits in their account. The most commonly received federal benefits are Social Security and/or SSI and Veterans Benefits. If a judgment creditor tries to levy on your bank account and you have less than two months' worth of Social Security benefits in your account, the bank will **automatically** protect all of your funds.

Example: You are single and get \$900 in Social Security deposited in your account each month. So long as you keep your balance under \$1,800, you bank account is completely protected.

Example: You are married and get \$1,000 in Social Security deposited in your account each month and your spouse gets \$900 directly deposited in the **same account**. So long as you keep your balance under \$3,800, your bank account is completely protected.

Note that this rule ONLY protects accounts which receive direct deposit of federal benefits. If you have other accounts, they are not protected by the rule.

The Tracing Rule

The legislature protects certain kinds of income from being seized by a judgment. Among the income protected are:

- * unemployment insurance benefits
- * most retirement benefits
- * wages in an amount under 40 times the minimum wage per week (see pp.)
- * disability benefits

For a complete list of protected income and property, see 'Exemptions from the Enforcement of Judgments': http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/ej155.pdf

If you can trace the funds in your bank account back to an exempt (protected) category, you can protect those funds. This protection is NOT automatic. You must fill out forms within ten days of a Notice of Levy proving that the money in the bank is exempt.⁵

⁵ For an example of completed forms to get funds back after a bank levy, see https://saclaw.org/wp-content/uploads/sbs-claim-of-exemption-bank-levy.pdf

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE JUDGMENT-PROOF

If you are judgment-proof and you don't expect your financial situation to improve in the future, there is no need to file an answer to any collection complaints you receive. There is no such thing as debtor's prison, and you can safely ignore complaints and other court-related documents.⁶

If you are receiving unwanted phone calls or other communications that you want to stop, send the letter on page 24 to the creditor or debt collector who is contacting you. Be sure to:

- make a copy of the filled-out, signed letter before you mail it
- send the letter in such a way that you can prove it was received such as by
 - · sending the letter certified mail, return receipt requested
 - · faxing the letter and saving the transmission sheet
 - · emailing the letter, if the creditor/debt collector maintains an email address

If the creditor or debt collector contacts you after receiving your letter, you are entitled to monetary penalties. Document those contacts on the collection log on page 26.

⁶ There is one exception to this rule. It is theoretically possible you will be served with an Order for Examination (see sample on page 27) in which case you must appear in court on the day indicated on the Order. Fewer than 1% of consumer judgments result in an Order for Examination, so it is **highly unlikely** you will receive one.

HOW DO I FILE AN ANSWER?

Q: I know I want to file an answer. What do I have to do?

A: The clerk of the court at 191 N. First Street will need three things from you:

- 1) a completed General Denial form (see page 4 with attachment pages);
- 2) a completed Proof of Service (see page 17. Note that the person who serves your answer and signs the Proof of Service must be A) over 18 years old; and B) not a party to the action); and,
- 3) payment of the appropriate fee OR a completed fee waiver application with a proposed order.

A sample completed answer packet including a fee waiver application appears on pages 14-21

Fees

As of the date of publication, the fee for filing an answer as follows:

* if you are being sued for LESS THAN \$10,000:	\$225
* if you are being sued for MORE than \$10,000 but LESS than \$25,000:	\$370
* if you are being sued for MORE THAN \$25,000:	\$435

If you receive public benefits, have a very low income, or cannot afford to pay the fee, fill out a fee waiver application and proposed order as shown on pages 18-21.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES SHOW YOU HOW TO FILE AN ANSWER AND, IF NECESSARY, AN APPLICATION TO WAIVE THE COURT FILING FEE

			PLD-050
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):			FOR COURT USE ONLY
Carla Consumer	Type in your na	ame,	
123 The Alameda, Apt. 12 San Jose, CA 95126	address and ph	none	
San Jose, CA 93120	number here. '	'In Pro	
TELEPHONE NO.: (408) 555-1213 FAX NO.(Optional):	Per" means you	u are	
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):	representing yo		
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): In Pro Per			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Santa Clara			
STREET ADDRESS: 191 North First Street	Use this inform		
MAILING ADDRESS:	you are being	sued in	
city and zip code: San Jose, CA 95126	Santa Clara Co	ounty	
BRANCH NAME: DTS PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Debt Buyer This is called	1 1 1 4 221 1 1		
i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i			re than one defendant you
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Carla Consumer should just t	type the name of		son listed as a defendant.
GENERAL DENIAL		CASE NUMBER: 18cv123456	Be sure to type in the cas number here
If you want to file a general denial, you MUST use this form if the	amount asked for in	the complaint or t	the value of the property
involved is \$1,000 or less.		•	
You MAY use this form for a general denial if:			
The complaint is not verified; <i>or</i>			
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
 The complaint is verified and the case is a limited civi BUT NOT if the complaint involves a claim for more the 		-	
·			
(See Code of Civil Procedure sections 85-86, 90-100, 431.30, ar	Type your name	again but m	ake sure it matches the
1. DEFENDANT (name): Carla Consumer	complaint EXAC	TLY. For ex	cample type "Carla T.
generally denies each and every allegation of plaintiff's comp			
2. DEFENDANT states the following FACTS as separate	complaint. If the	plaintiff mad	de a mistake with your
pages if necessary):			tual name first and then
See arrached	•		arla T. Consumer". Each
1/ 1/	• •	•	ver will have to complete
	their own form.		Ter min have to complete
following pages rather than trying to	anon own ronni		
type them all in here.			
91			
Type your name one n	noro timo tuno t	ho doto pian	1
Type your name one n			'
and don't forget to atta	ich ine allifmativ	e derenses.	
Date: October 30, 2018			J
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Carla Consumer			
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	•	(SIGNATURE OF DE	FENDANT OR ATTORNEY)

If you have a claim for damages or other relief against the plaintiff, the law may require you to state your claim in a special pleading called a cross-complaint or you may lose your right to bring the claim. (See Code of Civil Procedure sections 426.10-426.40.) The original of this General Denial must be filed with the clerk of this court with proof that a copy was served on each plaintiff's attorney and on each plaintiff not represented by an attorney. There are two main ways to serve this General Denial: by personal delivery or by mail. It may be served by anyone at least 18 years of age EXCEPT you or any other party to this legal action. Be sure that whoever serves the General Denial fills out and signs a proof of service. You may use the applicable Judicial Council form (such as form POS-020, POS-030, or POS-040) for the proof of service.

Page 1 of 1

Page 14

				PU5-030
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, Carla Consumer	State Bar number, and add	ress):	F	FOR COURT USE ONLY
123 The Alameda, Apt. 12	Even though	you won't be the or	20	
San Jose, CA 95126		your information stil		
TELEPHONE NO.: (408) 555-12134	goes here.	your information our		
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):	good			
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): In Pro Per SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA	COUNTY OF	Santa Clara		
STREET ADDRESS: 191 North Firs		Salita Ciara		
MAILING ADDRESS:	0.710.6			
CITY AND ZIP CODE: San Jose, CA BRANCH NAME: DTS	95126			
PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: Debt B	Buyer			
RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: Carla C	Consumer			
PROOF OF SERVICE	BY FIRST-CLA	SS MAIL - CIVIL	CASE NUMBER: 18cv12345	6
(Do not use	e this Proof of Sei	rvice to show service of a	a Summons and Com	plaint.)
1. I am over 18 years of age and not a	a party to this act	<mark>ion.</mark> I am a resident of or e	mployed in the county	where the mailing
took place.My residence or business address	is: You will n	eed to find a friend	or relative who me	eets the two highlighted
123 The Alameda, Apt. 13	criteria. V			t person's information th
San Jose, CA 95126	goes in se	ection 2 and the rest	of the form.	
3. On <i>(date)</i> : September 1, 2018		I mailed from (city and sta	te): San Jose CA	
the following documents (specify): General Denial				
	ou may want t	he server to comple	te the date in sec	tion 3, since he/she will
do	oing the mailin	g.		
The documents are listed in the (form POS-030(D)).	e Attachment to Pro	oof of Service by First-Clas	s Mail - Civil (Documer	nts Served)
I served the documents by enclosing	ng them in an enve	lone and (check one)		
	•	nited States Postal Service	with the postage fully p	orepaid.
_ . •		ling following our ordinary	· ·	•
		ssing correspondence for r ited in the ordinary course	_	nited States Postal Service in
a sealed envelope with po	-	_		
5. The envelope was addressed and r				
a. Name of person served: Licb. Address of person served:	onel Hutz, Esq.	-		ng the plaintiff. If there
Dewey, Cheatem & How	e	mail it to.	ttorriey listed, yot	ı can pick any one to
123 Wall Street		man it to:		
Los Angeles, CA 99999				
				=
	-		listed in the Attachmen	it to Proof of Service
I declare under penalty of perjury under	the laws of the Sta	ate of California that the for	regoing is true and corr	ect.
Date: September 1, 2018				
Nancy Neighbor		•		
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF PERSON COMP	<u>, </u>		(SIGNATURE OF PERSON CO	MPLETING THIS FORM)
Form Approved for Optional Use Judicial Council of California	_	RVICE BY FIRST-CLAS	SS MAIL - CIVIL	Code of Civil Procedure, §§ 1013, 1013a www.courtinfo.ca.gov
POS-030 [New January 1, 2005] CEB* Essentia ceb.com		(Proof of Service)	Page 17	1
			. 490 11	

FW-001 Request to W	aive Court Fees		C	ONFIDENTIAL
If you are getting public benefits, are a enough income to pay for your housely This form is ONLY for folks who can't afford to pay the court filing fees listed on page 4.	aive your court fees. The court ances. Type the	rt fees, you may order s, you	Clerk stamps o	date here when form is filed.
Skip this form and the order on	furing thoo to the right and	IJ	Fill in court nan	ne and street address:
pp. 21-22 if you can pay the court fee.	00 or ptype your schedulinformation into ay also section 1.	vaives ne n costs.	Santa Clar	ourt of California, County of a First Street
Name: Carla Consumer Street or mailing address: 123	The Alameda, Apt. 12		San Jose, ODTS	
City: <u>San Jose</u> , Phone: (408) 555-1234	State: <u>CA</u> Zip: <u>95126</u>		Fill in case num	ber and name:
Filone. (40a) 333-1234			Case Numb 18cv12345	
2 Your Job, if you have one (job Name of employer:Circle M	Restaurant		Case Name: Debt Buye	r v. Consumer
Employer's address: 12 Main	Street, Campbell, CA 95551			K
Varmi amon is 11		ne i	number, and	State Bar number):
If you are 'unemployed' or 'retir		section		<u> </u>
2. Otherwise provide your worl	k information.		1 7 7 7	r case number and short
		ts (chitte into t	he box above.
If your lawyer is not provid	gn nere) Lawyer's signature ing legal-aid type services base are asking the court to waive th		w income, yo	u may have to go to a
(4) What court's fees or costs	are you asking to be waive	ed?		
of Appellate Court Fees 5 Why are you asking the co	urt to wa	gn belowc if you re	You <u>don't</u> ceive any c	have to fill out the 2nd pa of these benefits.
a. I receive (check all that a	apply; see form FW-001-INFO j County Relief/Gen. Assist. 🔲 II	tor definition	is): La Foo	d StampsSupp. Sec. Inc.
	fill out 7, 8, and 9 on page 2 of t	his form.)		earnings are lower than
Family Size Family Incom		5 5	\$3,064.59	the amount indicated by
2 \$1,714.59		6	\$3,514.59	the chart on the left,
c. I do not have enough inc (check one and you must		basic needs	and the court	check box b and complete all of page 2.
waive all court fees	and costs waive some of	the court fee	es	If you earn more but you still can't afford to pay
Check here if you asked the (If your previous request is I declare under penalty of perjury on this form and all attachments i	e court to waive your court fees s reasonably available, please a y under the laws of the State o	ttach it to th	is form and c	the filing fee, check box c and complete all of
	s a de and correct.			
Date: October 30, 2018	L			
Carla Consumer Print your name here		Sign here		_

CEB° Essential Forms

If you checked 5a on page 1, do not fill out below. If you checked 5c, you must fill out this entire page. If you sheet of paper and write Financial Information and your na	need more space, attach form MC-025	
7 Check here if your income changes a lot from month to month. If it does, complete the form based on your average income for	Your Money and Property a. Cash	50.00
the past 12 months. 8 Your Gross Monthly Income		nt): 51,250.00
a. List the source and amount of <i>any</i> income you get each month, including: wages or other income from work before deductions, spousal/child support, retirement, social security, disability, unemployment, military basic allowance for quarters (BAQ), veterans payments, dividends, interest, trust income, annuities, net business or rental income, reimbursement for job-related expenses, gambling or lottery winnings, etc.	(3) \$ c. Cars, boats, and other vehicles Make/Year Fair Market Value	How Much You Still Owe
(1) Earnings \$ 2,500.00 (2) \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	d. Real estate Fair Market Address Value (1) \$\$ (2) \$\$	How Much You Still Owe
Household Income a. List the income of all other persons living in your home who depend in whole or in part on you for support, or on whom you depend in whole or in part for support. Gross Monthly		How Much You Still Owe
Name Age Relationship Income	Your Monthly Deductions and Expenses a. List any payroll deductions and the monthly amo	ount below: 250.00
b. Total monthly income of persons above: Total monthly income and household income (8b plus 9b): \$ 2,500.00	(4) \$ b. Rent or house payment & maintenance c. Food and household supplies d. Utilities and telephone e. Clothing f. Laundry and cleaning g. Medical and dental expenses h. Insurance (life, health, accident, etc.) i. School, child care \$ \$	1,200.00 6 600.00 7 175.00 6 200.00 6 50.00 6 50.00
To list any other facts you want the court to know, such as unusual medical expenses, etc., attach form MC-025 or attach a sheet of paper and write Financial Information and your name and case number at the top. Check here if you attach another page.	(2) \$	6666666
Important! If your financial situation or ability to pay court fees improves, you must notify the court within five days on form FW-010.	(2) \$ (3) \$ Fotal monthly expenses (add 11a-11n above): \$	S S

Case Number:

18cv123456

Revised March 2, 2018



The court is not likely to waive your fee unless you 'total monthly expenses' equal or exceed your 'total monthly income and household income'.

Your name: Carla Consumer

FW-003 Order on Court Fee Waiver (Superior Court)	Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.
Person who asked the court to waive court fees: Name: Carla Consumer Street or mailing address: 123 The Alameda, Apt. 12 City: San Jose State: CA Zip: 95126	
2 Lawyer, if person in 1 has one (name, address, phone number, e-mail, and State Bar number): n/a	
	Fill in court name and street address:
The only parts of this form that you need to fill out are section one and the two boxes to the right.	Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara 191 North First Street
I ne court made a previous fee waiver order in this case on (date):	San Jose, CA 95126 DTS
	Fill in case number and name:
	Case Number:
Read this form carefully. All checked boxes 🗹 are court orders.	18cv123456
Read this form ear efailty. The encenced boxes - are court orders.	Case Name:
	Debt Buyer v. Consumer
to pay the fees. If you settle your civil case for \$10,000 or more, the trial court we amount of the waived fees. The trial court may not dismiss the case until the lien 4 After reviewing your: Request to Waive Court Fees Request to	is paid.
the court makes the following orders:a. The court grants your request, as follows:	
(1) Fee Waiver. The court grants your request and waives your co Rules of Court, rule 3.55. and 8.818.) You do not have to pay to Filing papers in Superior Court Giving rows Sheriff's fee to give notice Sheriff's fee to give notice Court fee for phone hearing Reporter's fee for attendance at hearing or trial, if reporter proven Assessment for court investigations under Probate Code section Preparing, certifying, copying, and sending the clerk's transcript Holding in trust the deposit for a reporter's transcript on appeal Making a transcript or copy of an official electronic recording to	the court fees for the following: notice and certificates papers to another court department pointed interpreter in small claims court rided by the court in 1513, 1826, or 1851 of on appeal under rule 8.130 or 8.834 under rule 8.835

our name	e:		Case Number: 18cv123456
b. 🔲	The court denies your fee	e waiver request, as follows:	
		leadline below, the court cannot process your request. If the papers were a notice of appeal,	
(1)	this order (see date of • Pay your fees and	request because it is incomplete. You have service on next page) to: d costs, or ed request that includes the items listed be	
(2)		request because the information you prove waiver you requested (specify reasons):	
	form FW-006. You ha • Pay your fees an	d a blank <i>Request for Hearing About Count</i> ve 10 days after the clerk gives notice of d costs in full or the amount listed in c. beg in order to show the court more informa	this order (see date of service below) to: elow, or
c. 🗖		ormation to decide whether to grant your in the about (specify questions regarding eliginal properties).	
	Bring the following pr	roof to support your request if reasonably	available:
		Name a	nd address of court if different from above
H	earing Date:	Time:	
U	Dept.:	Room:	
	request to waive court fee	cked, and you do not go to court on your hes, and you will have 10 days to pay your focourt papers you filed with your request. If seed.	ees. If you miss that deadline, the
Date	:	Signature of (check one)	☐ Judicial Officer ☐ Clerk, Deputy
9	language interpreter serv	commodation, Form MC-410. (Civil Code	outer-assisted real-time captioning, or sign s before your hearing. Contact the clerk's
ertify th	at I am not involved in this	Clerk's Certificate of Servies case and (check one): A certificate	
I hand	ed a copy of this order to the rder was mailed first class.	he party and attorney, if any, listed in 1, postage paid, to the party and attorney, if, California on the dat	and (2) , at the court, on the date below f any, at the addresses listed in (1) and (2)
·			, Depu
		This is a Court Order	•

YOUR RIGHTS WHEN DEALING WITH CREDITORS AND DEBT COLLECTORS

Here are some of the rights you have with respect to creditors and debt collectors:

- You have the right to protection from harassment. No debt collector may use obscene or profane language in addressing you. They may not threaten you with force. They may not lie about who they are; call you collect; call you early in the morning or late at night; or, call repeatedly ring and hang up. Collectors are not able to contact anyone other than you or your spouse other than to locate you. A debt collector can never tell a third party that the collector thinks you owe a debt.
- You have the right to be left alone. If you do not want to receive phone calls regarding your debts, you can request that a debt collector cease communications with you. See page 24 for an example of 'cease communications' letter. Be aware that if you send a debt collector a 'cease communication letter', the collector may feel it has no choice but to sue you. Therefore unless you are judgment proof (see page 9), you may wish instead rather than ask them to cease all communication only contact you in writing.
- You have the right to the truth. No debt collector may lie to you to convince you to pay a debt. This means, for example, that they cannot tell you a suit is about to be filed against you unless that is true.
- You have the right to make the collector validate the debt. The debt collector must inform you of your right to obtain written "verification" of any debt. If you request such verification, the debt collector must stop trying to collect the debt until they provide it to you so long as you make the request within 30 days of the collector notifying your of your validation rights. However, you must make your request for verification IN WRITING. There is an example of such a request on page 28.
- You do not have to reveal where you work or where you bank. If you are asked for this information, you do not have to answer, and you should not answer.

HOW TO ENFORCE YOUR RIGHTS

You can sue for penalties and actual damages you have suffered if a debt collector violates the law. You may be able to find a lawyer AT NO COST TO YOU, since the law says the debt collector must pay your lawyer if you win. Because the lawyer will only get paid if you win, they will look for solid proof that the debt collector broke the law. Most lawyers won't rely on verbal statements unless you taped them, or you have witnesses. Therefore, if possible, you should tape conversations with debt collectors, but you must tell the debt collectors you are taping the conversations. It is not legal in California to tape a confidential conversation without the other party's knowledge. Also, you should ALWAYS save ALL letters you receive from a debt collector. For a referral of Consumer Rights attorneys contact the Santa Clara County Bar Associations Lawyer Referral service at (408) 971-6822. If you reside outside Santa Clara County, contact your local Bar Association.

Jane Doe 450 E. Fifth St. Apt. #4 San Jose, CA 95116

Date:	
VIA I	FAX [(111) 111 - 1111] & FIRST CLASS MAIL or
VIA CERTIFI	ED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED or
VIA EMAIL	ONLY AT
John Smith ACME Law Group APC 125 W. Hedding Street, Ste. 100 San Jose, CA 95110	
	Re: ACME Investments LLC v. Jane Doe Case No.: 17-CV-111111
Dear Mr. Smith:	
December 9, 2018. I am writing to seek a to	matter. I understand my answer is due on or about wo-week extension to December 23, 2018, to answer e_doe2@yahoo.com to let me know whether or not
Sincerely,	
Jane Doe	

	Date:	
VIA C	ERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUE	STED
	-	
	-	
	_	
	Re:	
	Acct.#:	

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request that you cease all contact with me pursuant to California Civil Code §1788.17 and/or 15 USC §1692c(c), which require you to cease all contact with a consumer when you receive a written request to do so.

I do not concede that I owe any "debt" to you. Even if I did, I could not afford to pay you. Therefore, I will no make ANY further payments on the above-referenced account. I have consulted with an attorney and I have been informed that I am "judgment-proof". You may sue me if you wish, but you will not be able to collect any money from me because I have no assets or income that can be attached with a judgment.

I recognize that you may choose to refer this account to a collection agency, or some other entity. Should you choose to do so, YOU MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF THIS LETTER IN MY FILE, AND THE ACCOUNT MUST BE NOTATED THAT I DO NOT WISH TO BE CONTACTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. If you fail to comply with this request, I will consider it an intentional attempt to circumvent California's Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with respect to my request that you cease <u>any</u> further contacts with me.

Sincerely,

-		
-		
Date:		
VIA CE	RTIFIED MAIL RETURN RI	ECEIPT REQUESTED
Re: Acct.#:		
Acct.#:		
To Whom It May Concern:		
report any negative credit infor	at I dispute the alleged debt. The mation regarding this account to account is disputed, as required by	any credit reporting agency
I request validation of the alleg that you send me an accounting mentioned account.	ged debt tog showing that I owe the above-n	I specifically request nentioned amount on the above-
Sincerely,		

Date of call? (MM/DD/YY)	Time of Call?	Identify the company and/or caller here if you know their identity	Check this box if you picked up the call and told the caller not to call anymore	Check this box if they left you a voice mail message (save the message)	Check this box if the caller hung up	Make a note of anything of interest the caller said here
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

				A1-138/EJ-125	
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY:	STATE BAR NO.:		FOR	R COURT USE ONLY	
NAME:					
FIRM NAME:					
STREET ADDRESS:		If you are 'judgment-proof' as explained of			
CITY:	STATE: ZIP CODE:	page 8 you can ignore every legal docum			
TELEPHONE NO.:	FAX NO.:	EXCEPT this one. It is HIGHLY UNLIKELY			
E-MAIL ADDRESS:					
ATTORNEY FOR (name):		you will receive this document but if you do			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNT	TY OF	⊟vou must ar	pear in court	on the date	
			•		
STREET ADDRESS:		indicated. Call (408) 288-7030 if you want			
MAILING ADDRESS:		advice about how to handle such an			
CITY AND ZIP CODE:		appearance			
BRANCH NAME:					
PLAINTIFF					
DEFENDANT					
APPLICATION AND ORDER FOR ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT Judgment Debtor	R APPEARANCE AND EXA ATTACHMENT (TI Third Person	_	CASE NUMBER:		
-	ORDER TO APPEAR FOI				
1. TO <i>(name):</i>			-		
2. YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR pers	onally before this court or bef	ore a referee anno	ointed by the court	to	
a. a. furnish information to aid in enfor	=		on too by the coult	,	
		-	or concorning a d	lobt you owe the	
b. answer concerning property of th	e judgment debtor in your pos	session of control	or concerning a d	lebt you owe the	
judgment debtor.					
c. answer concerning property of th	e defendant in your possession	on or control or cor	ncerning a debt yo	u owe the defendant	
that is subject to attachment.					
Date:	Time:	Dept. o	r Div ·	Rm.:	
_	· —	рері. о	I DIV	MIII	
Address of court is shown above	e 🔲 is:				
Date:	_		WDOF		
This order must be se	erved not less than 10 days b	oforo the data or	JUDGE	ation	
	•			ation.	
IMI	PORTANT NOTICES	ON REVER	RSE		
	TION FOR ORDER TO API				
	Assignee of record 🔲 Pla	aintiff who has a ri	ght to attach order		
applies for an order requiring (name):					
to appear and furnish information to aid i	n enforcement of the money je	udgment or to ans	wer concerning pr	operty or debt.	
5. The person to be examined is					
a. the judgment debtor.					
b. a third person (1) who has posse	ession or control of property b	elonaina to the iuc	dament debtor or t	he defendant or (2) who	
owes the judgment debtor or the			-		
Procedure section 491.110 or 70		amaavit suppoi	g and applicatio	1.140. 0040 01 0111	
		ounty or with: - 4 F	Omilas af the rate	no of avamination	
6. The person to be examined resides or ha		-			
7. This court is not the court in which t		•			
attachment. An affidavit supporting					
The judgment debtor has been exar	nined within the past 120 days	s. An affidavit sho	wing good cause f	for another examination	
is attached.					
declare under penalty of perjury under the I	aws of the State of California	that the foregoing	is true and correct	t.	
Date:		5 5			
	L				
	/ _				
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(Continued on reve	rca)	(SIGNATURE OF DE		
	APPLICATION AND (Page 1 of 2	
Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California			Page 27	Code of Civil Procedure §§ 491.110, 708.110, 708.120, 708.1	
AT-138/EJ-125 [Rev. January 1, 2017] CEB* Essential ceb.com	APPEARANCE AND E		uge 21	www.courts.ca.go	
ceb.com	(Attachment-Enforcement	nt of Judgment)			