

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO  
IN THE METROPOLITAN COURT

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Plaintiff,

v. No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Defendant.

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CLAIM EXEMPTIONS**  
**(GARNISHMENT)**

**1. THE JUDGMENT CREDITOR IS GARNISHING YOUR PROPERTY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE YOUR BANK ACCOUNT:**

A ruling has been made in this case that you owe money to the judgment creditor. The judgment creditor has started to collect that money from your property, which may include your bank account.

**2. PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE:**

This notice is to tell you that some kinds of property or money may NOT be taken from you even after the court has ruled that you owe the judgment creditor money. These funds or property are protected under federal or state law. Money or property that may not be taken is called “exempt” property. You may claim an exemption by filing with the Court a Claim of Exemption (garnishment) form. There are limits on how much of your wages may be taken. You do not need to file a Claim of Exemption form to protect your exempt wages.

Here is a list of some exempt money and property. Other kinds of money or property not listed may also be exempt. **YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT AN ATTORNEY BEFORE COMPLETING AND FILING THIS FORM.**

**3. PARTIAL LIST OF EXEMPTIONS:**

- a. social security benefits (OASDI, SSI);
- b. public assistance benefits (AFDC, welfare, GA);
- c. life, accident or health insurance proceeds;
- d. workers' compensation benefits (part may be garnished for child or spousal support);
- e. occupational health benefits;
- f. unemployment compensation benefits subject to the limitations of Section 51-1-37 NMSA 1978;
- g. veterans' benefits;
- h. pensions or retirement funds;

- i. a partner's interest in specific partnership property subject to the limitations of Section 54-1-25 NMSA 1978;
- j. crime victims' reparation fund payments;
- k. a family allowance to a decedent's surviving spouse and children, subject to the limitations of Sections 45-2-401 and 45-2-402 NMSA 1978;
- l. the minimum amount of shares necessary for certain cooperative associations as provided by Section 53-4-28 NMSA 1978;
- m. fraternal benefit society payments;
- n. oil and gas equipment not financed by the judgment creditor to be used for purposes for which it was purchased as provided by Section 70-4-12 NMSA 1978.

**4. HOW TO PROTECT EXEMPT PROPERTY:**

A "Claim of Exemption (garnishment)" form is attached for you to complete and file with the Court. **YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED CLAIM OF EXEMPTIONS (GARNISHMENT) FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE UPON YOU. YOU MUST ALSO SERVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETED AND SIGNED CLAIM OF EXEMPTIONS (GARNISHMENT) FORM ON THE JUDGMENT CREDITOR AND ON THE GARNISHEE.**

If the judgment creditor disputes a claimed exemption, the clerk or the judge will notify you of the date and time for a Court hearing on your claim. You must go to that hearing and explain why your money or property is exempt. You must bring to the hearing any proof that your money or property is exempt.

If you do not complete and file the Claim of Exemptions (garnishment) form within ten (10) days and attend the hearing, your money or property may be turned over to the judgment creditor.

**DO NOT FILE THE CLAIM OF EXEMPTION FORM TO PROTECT ONLY WAGES.**

**YOU SHOULD COMPLETE AND RETURN THE CLAIM OF EXEMPTION FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THIS FORM UPON YOU. MAKE A COPY OF THE COMPLETED FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS AND SERVE A COPY ON THE JUDGMENT CREDITOR AND ON THE GARNISHEE.**