

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) After Bankruptcy

1. I received my discharge, now what?

Once you receive your discharge, you no longer have to pay all the debts that you incurred prior to your bankruptcy filing date. You will, of course, have to continue to pay for a house and cars that you elected to keep in the bankruptcy. Also, generally child support, taxes and student loans are not dischargeable and you must pay those debts.

2. Are the debts that I discharged in bankruptcy still on my credit report?

The debts will appear on your credit report as well as information about the bankruptcy (the bankruptcy information will appear for 10 years). The debts should show a zero balance owing and/or some reference to the bankruptcy.

You will want to wait 6 months after your discharge date to obtain your credit reports. Most of the debts should be shown correctly on the reports by then. You may obtain a free credit report from the major credit reporting agencies at www.annualcreditreport.com. If items are still showing with balances owed, you will need to dispute those items on the report. Instructions to dispute the items are available at the web site I mentioned or the credit reporting agency websites. Additionally, if you order a credit report by mail, instructions for disputes are normally included.

Once you file a dispute indicating that a debt was discharged in bankruptcy, the creditor has 30 days to respond. If they do not respond, the item will be removed. If they respond and the debt is not removed by the credit reporting agency, please contact me because we may need to file a lawsuit.

3. Some of my creditors are still contacting me, what can I do about it?

The first response to any phone call from a creditor is to inform them of the bankruptcy and give them your bankruptcy case number. If you receive letters from creditors, you should send them a copy of the Notice of Commencement of Bankruptcy that you received to tell you when and where the creditors' meeting would be held and/or send them a copy of your discharge. This will stop 99% of creditors. If creditors still continue to contact you or if you receive a summons for a lawsuit for a discharged debt, please contact me.