

BANKRUPTCY GUIDE

www.sandaulegal.com
Call or Text
For a Free Consultation
978 482 7354



COPYRIGHTED 2020



Information contained in this guide is not legal advice and meant to be for educational and informational purposes only. This guide does not constitute or form an attorney-client relationship.

**May Constitute Attorney Advertising*



www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354



Start A New Financial Chapter

RELAX, YOU JUST DID SOMETHING AMAZING, SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE IN DEBT RARELY DO: SOUGHT GUIDANCE!

Before we begin, Sandau Legal wants to congratulate you on taking the first step towards debt recovery, acknowledging you may have a debt problem and seeking help.

In this time of social distancing, we are high-fiving you through your mobile device or computer and want you to know this is an important step you have taken, and we are here to help.

We hope you find this bankruptcy guide informative, and when the time is right, we want you to know Sandau Legal is here to get you back on the road to financial recovery!

Dara J. Sandau, Esq, Managing Attorney
Sandau Legal P.C.

www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354

WHEN SHOULD I CONSIDER FILING BANKRUPTCY?

WHEN YOUR DEBT TO INCOME RATIO IS AT 30% OF YOUR INCOME,
OR WHEN YOU'RE BEING SUED.

Most people seek legal help with their debts when they are responding to an adverse event, such as a lawsuit filed by a creditor, an eviction notice, a car repossession notice, or a foreclosure notice.

A good rule of thumb is if your debts are approaching 30% of your income should be having a discussion with a debt and credit solutions attorney like Sandau Legal.

e.g., If your income is \$20,000 a year and your debt is at \$6,000 or 30%, seek help.

THE FOLLOWING DEBTS MAY QUALIFY TO BE INCLUDED IN BANKRUPTCY

Credit Cards

Mortgage

Medical Debt

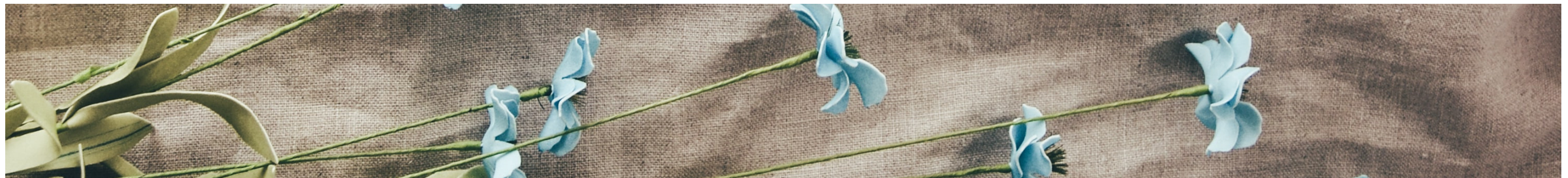
Car Loans

Rent Arrearages

Student Loans

THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON REASONS PEOPLE FILE BANKRUPTCY

- Unplanned Life Events (Divorce, Unemployment, Medical Events, COVID-19)
- Poor or Excess Use Of Credit
- Unexpected Expenses



AM I GOING TO LOSE MY CAR, HOUSE, RETIREMENT OR OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS IF I FILE BANKRUPTCY?

GENERALLY, NO.

The bankruptcy code is designed for a fresh financial start. It has many exemptions built into it that allow a person to qualify to keep their home, car, retirement accounts, and other personal belongings, all while reducing or eliminating their debts.

www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354

WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO BUY A CAR OR MORTGAGE A HOUSE AGAIN?

YES!

Contrary to popular belief, people who file bankruptcy are better credit risks as they are now debt free and have been through the process of being financially rehabilitated and accountable.

Here is the timeline to new credit post discharge:

Home Mortgages- 2 Years
Car Loan- 6 months-1 Year
Credit Card- 3 months
Installment Loans- 1 year

DO I HAVE TO GO TO COURT AND STAND BEFORE A JUDGE?

NO. THIS IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS.

You will be before a Trustee rather than a judge and in a conference room. Many people are surprised to learn the bankruptcy process is a lot like visiting the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Hearings are often quick if the petition is prepared well and usually done in person or telephonically.

WILL I LOSE MY JOB IF I FILE BANKRUPTCY

No.

The bankruptcy code prevents an employer from firing an employee solely because they filed for bankruptcy.



www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TYPE OF BANKRUPTCY TO FILE

CONSULT AN EXPERIENCED ATTORNEY

The type of bankruptcy filing, a Chapter 7 or a Chapter 13 filing, is dependent on several factors, including your income and your debt load. Not every person is eligible to file for bankruptcy.

Only an experienced bankruptcy attorney, like Sandau Legal, can assess your legal and financial position and determine what the best strategy is to accomplish your long and short term financial goals.

www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354

WHAT ARE THE DEBT AND INCOME LIMITS TO QUALIFY TO FILE BANKRUPTCY? AND WHAT ARE THE COSTS TO FILE BANKRUPTCY?

Income Limits

Household Size 1	\$67,119
Household Size 2	\$84,125
Household Size 3	\$108,130
Household Size 4	\$134,418

Debt Limits

The debt limits for Chapter 13 are \$360,475 for unsecured debt and \$1,081,400 for secured debt.

Chapter 7.

Court Filing Fees	\$335
Attorney Fees	\$1,500-\$2,000+

Chapter 13

Court Filing Fees	\$310
Attorney Fees	\$5,000-\$6,500+

*Fees may vary and there may be additional charges dependent on individual circumstances.

*Please note many Attorneys offer sliding scale fees for exigent and other circumstances

*Household size income is based on the Massachusetts guide and is determined by a number of factors, seek legal counsel for individual counsel and advice

WHAT PAPERWORK DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY ATTORNEY TO GET STARTED?

RECOMMENDED PAPERWORK INCLUDES:

- Photo ID and Social Security Information
- Tax Information- Most recent 2 years
- Paystubs
- Credit Reports
- List of Assets w/titles (e.g. Cars, Home, Retirement, Life Insurance Policies)
- Bills (Yes! This includes the past due library card!)

HOW LONG IS THE BANKRUPTCY PROCESS ?

THE ENTIRE BANKRUPTCY PROCESS TAKES BETWEEN 3-6
MONTHS

The hardest part of the bankruptcy is gathering the necessary paperwork to process the bankruptcy petition for review. It is essential to be thorough and responsive with your counsel when putting together your petition.

Failing to disclose or omit income or asset information could result in your case being dismissed or bankruptcy fraud charges being filed.

CALL OR TEXT US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE VIRTUAL OR TELEPHONE CONSULTATION

978 482 7354



www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354



SandauLegal

Start A New Financial Chapter

Sandau Legal P.C.

360 Merrimack Street Suite 150 M/S 31

Lawrence, MA 01843

www.sandaulegal.com

Call or Text for a Free Consult:

978 482 7354

www.sandaulegal.com

info@sandaulegal.com

Call or Text 978 482 7354