

Official Form 3B

Instructions for the Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived

United States Bankruptcy Court

6/01/2014

How to Fill Out the Application

The fee for filing a bankruptcy case under Chapter 7 is \$335. If you cannot afford to pay the entire fee now in full or in installments within 120 days, use this form. If you can afford to pay your filing fee in installments, see *Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 3A).

If you file this form, you are asking the court to waive your fee. After reviewing your application, the court may waive your fee, set a hearing for further investigation, or require you to pay the fee in installments or in full.

For your fee to be waived, all of these statements must be true:

- You are filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 7.
- You are an individual.
- The total combined monthly income for your family is less than 150% of the official poverty guideline last published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). (For more information about the guidelines, go to <http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/PovertyGuidelines.aspx>.)
- You cannot afford to pay the fee in installments.

Your family includes you, your spouse, and any dependents listed on *Schedule J*. Your family may be different from your *household*, referenced on *Schedules I* and *J*. Your household may include your unmarried partner and others who live with you and with whom you share income and expenses.

If a bankruptcy petition preparer helped you complete this form, make sure that person fills out *Declaration and Signature of Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer* (Official Form 19); include a copy of it in this package.

Do not file these instructions with your bankruptcy filing package. Keep them for your records.

If you have already completed the following forms, the information on them may help you when you fill out this application:

- *Schedule A: Real Property* (Official Form 6A)
- *Schedule I: Your Income* (Official Form 6I)
- *Schedule J: Your Expenses* (Official Form J)

Understand the terms used in this form

The *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 3B) uses *you* and *Debtor 1* to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, this form uses *you* to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if the form asks, “Do you own a car?” the answer would be *yes* if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Things to remember when filling out this form

- Be as complete and accurate as possible.
- If you have some additional circumstances that cause you to not be able to pay your filing fee in installments, explain them on line 5 of the form.
- If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).
- If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information.

Fill in this information to identify your case:

Debtor 1 _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Debtor 2 _____
 (Spouse, if filing) First Name Middle Name Last Name

United States Bankruptcy Court for the: _____ District of _____
(State)

Case number _____
 (If known)

Check if this is an amended filing

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Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived

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Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).

Part 1: Tell the Court About Your Family and Your Family's Income

1. What is the size of your family?

Your family includes you, your spouse, and any dependents listed on *Schedule J: Current Expenditures of Individual Debtor(s)* (Official Form 6J).

Check all that apply:

- You
- Your spouse
- Your dependents

_____ How many dependents?

_____ Total number of people

2. Fill in your family's average monthly income.

Include your spouse's income if your spouse is living with you, even if your spouse is not filing.

Do not include your spouse's income if you are separated and your spouse is not filing with you.

Add your income and your spouse's income. Include the value (if known) of any non-cash governmental assistance that you receive, such as food stamps (benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or housing subsidies.

If you have already filled out *Schedule I: Your Income*, see line 10 of that schedule.

That person's average monthly net income (take-home pay)

You \$ _____

Your spouse ... + \$ _____

Subtotal..... \$ _____

Subtract any non-cash governmental assistance that you included above. - \$ _____

Your family's average monthly net income Total..... \$ _____

3. Do you receive non-cash governmental assistance?

- No
- Yes. Describe.....

Type of assistance

4. Do you expect your family's average monthly net income to increase or decrease by more than 10% during the next 6 months?

- No
- Yes. Explain.

5. Tell the court why you are unable to pay the filing fee in installments within 120 days. If you have some additional circumstances that cause you to not be able to pay your filing fee in installments, explain them.

Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Monthly Expenses

6. Estimate your average monthly expenses.

Include amounts paid by any government assistance that you reported on line 2. \$ _____

If you have already filled out *Schedule J, Your Expenses*, copy line 22 from that form.

7. Do these expenses cover anyone who is not included in your family as reported in line 1?

- No
- Yes. Identify who.....

8. Does anyone other than you regularly pay any of these expenses?

- No
- Yes. How much do you regularly receive as contributions? \$ _____ monthly

If you have already filled out *Schedule I: Your Income*, copy the total from line 11.

9. Do you expect your average monthly expenses to increase or decrease by more than 10% during the next 6 months?

- No
- Yes. Explain.....

Part 3: Tell the Court About Your Property

If you have already filled out *Schedule A: Real Property (Official Form B 6A)* and *Schedule B: Personal Property (Official Form B 6B)*, attach copies to this application and go to Part 4.

10. How much cash do you have?

Examples: Money you have in your wallet, in your home, and on hand when you file this application

Cash: \$ _____

11. Bank accounts and other deposits of money?

Examples: Checking, savings, money market, or other financial accounts; certificates of deposit; shares in banks, credit unions, brokerage houses, and other similar institutions. If you have more than one account with the same institution, list each. Do not include 401(k) and IRA accounts.

	<u>Institution name:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Checking account:	_____	\$ _____
Savings account:	_____	\$ _____
Other financial accounts:	_____	\$ _____
Other financial accounts:	_____	\$ _____

12. Your home? (if you own it outright or are purchasing it)

Examples: House, condominium, manufactured home, or mobile home

Number _____	Street _____	Current value:	\$ _____
City _____	State _____	Amount you owe on mortgage and liens:	\$ _____
	ZIP Code _____		

13. Other real estate?

Number _____	Street _____	Current value:	\$ _____
City _____	State _____	Amount you owe on mortgage and liens:	\$ _____
	ZIP Code _____		

14. The vehicles you own?

Examples: Cars, vans, trucks, sports utility vehicles, motorcycles, tractors, boats

Make: _____	Model: _____	Current value:	\$ _____
Year: _____	Mileage: _____	Amount you owe on liens:	\$ _____
Make: _____	Model: _____	Current value:	\$ _____
Year: _____	Mileage: _____	Amount you owe on liens:	\$ _____

15. Other assets?

Describe the other assets:

Do not include household items and clothing.

[Empty box for describing other assets]

Current value: \$

Amount you owe on liens: \$

16. Money or property due you?

Who owes you the money or property?

How much is owed?

Do you believe you will likely receive payment in the next 180 days?

Examples: Tax refunds, past due or lump sum alimony, spousal support, child support, maintenance, divorce or property settlements, Social Security benefits, Workers' compensation, personal injury recovery

Who owes you the money or property? [Blank lines]

How much is owed? \$ [Blank lines]

No

Yes. Explain:

[Empty box for explaining payment likelihood]

Part 4: Answer These Additional Questions

17. Have you paid anyone for services for this case, including filling out this application, the bankruptcy filing package, or the schedules?

No

Yes. Whom did you pay? Check all that apply:

An attorney

A bankruptcy petition preparer, paralegal, or typing service

Someone else

How much did you pay?

\$ [Blank line]

18. Have you promised to pay or do you expect to pay someone for services for your bankruptcy case?

No

Yes. Whom do you expect to pay? Check all that apply:

An attorney

A bankruptcy petition preparer, paralegal, or typing service

Someone else

How much do you expect to pay?

\$ [Blank line]

19. Has anyone paid someone on your behalf for services for this case?

No

Yes. Who was paid on your behalf? Check all that apply:

An attorney

A bankruptcy petition preparer, paralegal, or typing service

Someone else

Who paid?

Check all that apply:

Parent

Brother or sister

Friend

Pastor or clergy

Someone else

How much did someone else pay?

\$ [Blank line]

20. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?

No

Yes. District When Case number

District When Case number

District When Case number

Part 5: Sign Below

By signing here under penalty of perjury, I declare that I cannot afford to pay the filing fee either in full or in installments. I also declare that the information I provided in this application is true and correct.

Signature of Debtor 1

Signature of Debtor 2

Date MM / DD / YYYY

Date MM / DD / YYYY