

### **33 DON'TS in preparing to file a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy**

- Don't leave out bank, checking, savings, brokerage, credit union accounts.
- Don't file if your income is greater than your expenses.
- Don't use your credit cards.
- Don't take credit card cash advances.
- Don't use convenience checks.
- Don't do balance transfers.
- Don't pay money to family.
- Don't pay money to friends.
- Don't tell a creditor that you intend to pay.
- Don't leave assets off of your paperwork.
- Don't file if you are about to receive a tax return or inheritance.
- Discuss the timing with your attorney.
- Don't fail to tell your attorney about your small business, sole proprietorship, partnership, LLC, LLP, LC, corporation, or hobby.
- Don't purchase a home shortly before filing bankruptcy without consulting your attorney.
- Don't give or gift property to anyone.
- Don't pay more than \$600 on any past due bill.
- Don't transfer property to anyone.
- Don't cash out retirement plans or 401k's.
- Don't take out a second mortgage.
- Don't gamble.
- Don't hide assets or debts.
- Don't take out "payday loans"
- Don't put your money in your kids' bank accounts.

- Don't omit or "save" a credit card for after your bankruptcy.
- Don't fail to list debt to family or other "insiders".
- Don't write bad checks.
- Don't borrow money.
- Don't forget to tell your attorney about liens you may have on your home or unpaid judgments so they can be avoided.
- Don't make major financial decisions without talking to your attorney.
- Don't get married before filing if your spouse has a high income.
- Don't misrepresent facts to your attorney.
- Don't run up your credit cards in advance of filing bankruptcy.
- Don't fail to appear at State court hearings, trials or proceedings; coordinate with your attorney.
- Don't hide from your attorney. Keep them up to date with your address, phone number and email address.

**You DO NOT want the DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE to investigate your case!**

I have checked off the above items indicating that sign below. I certify, **under penalty of perjury** that I have read and understand the Thirty-Three Don'ts in preparing to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

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**Client**

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**Date**

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**Joint Client**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**