



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the United States Trustee
Central District of California

411 West Fourth Street
Suite 7160
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Phone: (714) 338-3400
Facsimile: (714) 338-3421

915 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1850
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone (213) 894-6811
Facsimile: (213) 894-2603

3801 University Ave
Suite 720
Riverside, CA 92501
Phone: (951) 276-6990
Facsimile: (951) 276-6973

ATTENTION DEBTORS WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY

SOME DEBTORS HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED by unscrupulous practices on the part of those who assisted them in preparing their bankruptcy petitions. Sometimes these fraudulent petition preparers claim to be affiliated with religious groups, nonprofit or charitable organizations or even the government. Occasionally they represent themselves to be attorneys or affiliated with attorneys. Once they gain their victims' trust, they may demand an excessively large sum of money to file a bankruptcy case. In many instances they direct victims to pay mortgage or rent payments over to them and then fail to pay the money to the creditors. Some victims have even been persuaded to transfer ownership of their home, only to find themselves evicted shortly thereafter. Alternatively, a debtor may be inadvertently drawn into a fraudulent scheme where their schedules are falsified to include property that does not belong to the debtor.

FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES all non-lawyers who assist debtors in the preparation of bankruptcy petitions to: (1) sign the bankruptcy documents; (2) provide their names, addresses, and social security numbers; (3) have debtors review all documents before they are signed; and (4) disclose any fees they have been paid or are still owed.

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS petition preparers from: (1) providing legal advice; (2) signing their clients' names on documents; (3) collecting or receiving court filing fees; and (4) using the word "legal" in their advertisements.

PETITION PREPARERS WHO VIOLATE THIS LAW MAY BE SUBJECT TO FINES, PENALTIES AND EVEN PAYMENT OF DAMAGES TO THE DEBTOR OF \$2000 OR MORE. ALSO, IF THE PETITION PREPARER CHARGED MORE THAN THE VALUE OF THE SERVICES RENDERED, THE COURT MAY ORDER SOME OF THE MONEY REFUNDED.

ATTACHED IS A STATEMENT FOR YOU TO COMPLETE AND SIGN BEFORE YOU MEET WITH YOUR CASE TRUSTEE. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOUR ANSWERS ARE AS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE. YOUR ANSWERS WILL ASSIST THE CASE TRUSTEE AND THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE IN PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS AS A DEBTOR.

DECLARATION FOR DEBTORS WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY

Debtor's Name(s) _____ Case # _____

Debtor's Current Address: _____

Debtor's Telephone # _____

Case Trustee: _____ Date of 341(a) Meeting: _____

1. I did ___/did not ___ pay someone to assist me in preparing my bankruptcy documents (if you did not pay for assistance skip the rest of the questions and sign and date this document at the bottom).
2. Information regarding the preparer, including one used over the internet:
 Name: _____ Telephone #: _____
 Name of business _____
 Address / Website: _____
3. Amounts paid (include all amounts paid for services, but not the filing fee): \$ _____ Date of payment: _____
 - a. Did you also give the preparer the bankruptcy court filing fee? Yes ___/ No ___
 - b. If you did give the preparer the bankruptcy court filing fee, was payment by:
 money order ___/ cashier's check ___/cash ___/other (please describe): _____
 Amount of payment for the filing fee: \$ _____
 Was the filing fee payment made payable to the United States Bankruptcy Court? Yes ___/No ___
 - c. Do you still owe the preparer any money? Yes ___/No ___ If so, how much? _____
 - d. Did you pay any money to the preparer after the date your bankruptcy petition was filed? Yes ___/No ___
 - e. Did the preparer give you a receipt for the monies that you paid? Yes ___/No ___
4. I was ___/was not ___ given a copy of the petition and schedules before they were filed with the Court.
5. I did ___/did not ___ sign my own name on the petition and schedules.
6. I was ___/was not ___ directed to say that I had no assistance in preparing my documents.
7. At any time did the preparer say or indicate that he or she was an attorney? Yes ___/No ___
8. The preparer who assisted me explained to me (select all that apply):
 ___ whether or not to file a bankruptcy petition.
 ___ the difference between bankruptcy cases under chapter 7, 11,12, or 13.
 ___ whether my debts will be discharged.
 ___ whether I will be able to retain my home, car, or other property after filing bankruptcy.
 ___ any tax consequences from filing bankruptcy.
 ___ whether I should repay any of my debts to a creditor after filing bankruptcy.
 ___ whether I should enter into a reaffirmation agreement with a creditor to reaffirm a debt.
 ___ how any property interest I own should be characterized as either real or personal property.
 ___ how my debts should be characterized as either priority, secured or unsecured debts.
 ___ any bankruptcy procedures and rights I may have as a debtor in bankruptcy.
9. I was ___/was not ___ given a document by the preparer which explained the bankruptcy process.
10. I did ___/did not ___ fill out a questionnaire about my property and debts for the preparer's use.
11. I was ___/was not ___ informed by the preparer that an attorney would review my bankruptcy papers before they were filed with the Bankruptcy Court.
12. I did ___/did not ___ receive from the preparer a copy of the Amended Bankruptcy Preparer Guidelines issued in February 2003 by the Office of the United States Trustee.
13. I was ___/was not ___ directed to put false information on my bankruptcy documents. The false information is the following: _____
14. How did you hear about the preparer? _____
15. I did ___/did not ___ complete this document with the help of a person that I paid, directly or indirectly.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____