

Welcome to the Law Offices of  
Robert Weed!

I am Bob-Bot, your e-tutor and guide to  
understanding the in's and out's of  
bankruptcy.

Today I will show you how you can clear  
your debt, get a fresh start on your  
credit profile and enjoy life after debt!



## INFORMATION GUIDEBOOK

Offices in:

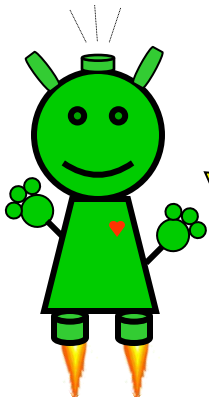
Alexandria: (O) 703-518-8811 (F) 703-656-4976 \* Manassas: (O) 703-335-7793 (F) 703-656-4866

Sterling: (O) 703-421-7111 (F) 703-563-9658 \* Woodbridge: (O) 703-680-5688 (F) 703-563-6008

Stafford: (O) 540-771-5582



## A Word from Robert R. Weed



**Mr. Weed wanted you to know that he and his very capable team are here to help you.**

**The sooner we evaluate your situation and plan a way to move forward, is the sooner you will be able to restore your good name and credit.**

**Being honest about everything puts us all in the best position for a successful outcome.**

So, you are considering filing for Bankruptcy. Life happens to everyone. No matter what your specific challenges may be, my team and I are here to help you get through it. So you can move on to a better life after debt.

I know you've heard lots of wrong information about Bankruptcy and you wonder what it will or won't do to you. I'm glad that you are choosing to be responsible and take action, instead of just sticking your head in the sand. Bankruptcy is a real solution to a real problem – and we are the experts at it – bankruptcies are all we do. If you need a solution to your debt problem, you have come to the right place, and we will do everything we can to fix the problem.

It's scary to talk to a stranger about your most personal activity – how you spend your money; but believe me, we are here to help and we do it with a smile. There is no judgment of you – we just want to see you be in a better position to prosper and get on with your life. With this said, I need to tell you that the most critical thing you can do is communicate with us. Tell us the truth about everything and you put us in the best position to help you. Hiding things from us that come to light later on, or worst yet, come up in the court hearing – you could be in really big trouble. So let's start off on the right foot.

Thanks for choosing our firm to get you through this difficult time. We appreciate your trust in us and we look forward to working with you. There is life after debt and it can happen sooner than you think!

Sincerely,

Robert Ross Weed Esq.





Today, we will cover the following topics:

1

The Bankruptcy process – start to finish.

2

What to bring to the first appointment.

3

What happens at the first appointment.

4

What is Chapter 7? What is Chapter 13?

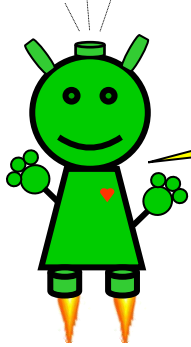
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What happens in a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy?

6

How to complete the forms.

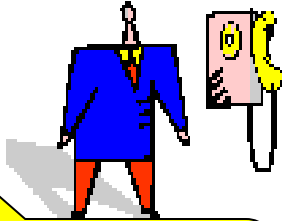




The Bankruptcy process may seem overwhelming at first, but it really isn't so bad.

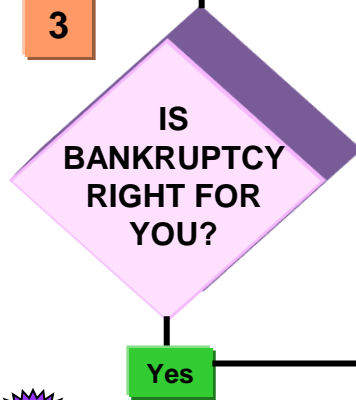
Follow along as I go over each of the six steps.

1



You've made that important call to manage your debt. Now download the forms provided on our website at [robertweed.com](http://robertweed.com)

3



**DECISION:** Meet your lawyer to review information and determine if bankruptcy is the right solution for your circumstance.

We offer alternatives and recommend a way forward

Now you've retained the Law Offices of Robert Weed

5

Meet in Alexandria with trustee. Wait for your case to be discharged!



Credit Counseling

2



Free consultation with one of my paralegals. They will explain to you the process of a, Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. Complete all the forms.

4

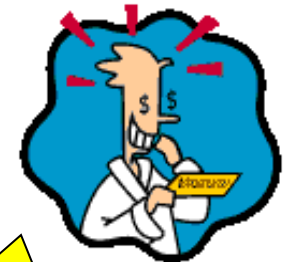


Debtors Education

Mandatory classes happen here!

Verify information for accuracy. Sign documents and send them to court. You now have a case number. You will need to take the mandatory Debtor Education class at this time. They will mail you a notice with the date and time of the hearing you must attend.

6

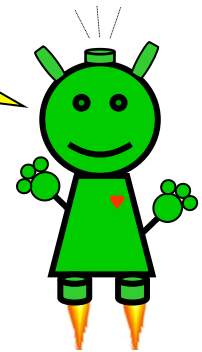


Discharge granted. This is where you pull your own credit report and send it in to our office to review.



The FIRST APPOINTMENT is VERY IMPORTANT.

Make sure you complete and download ALL of our forms



Find:

1

- **PAYSTUBS** for the last SIX months – you are required to include your spouse's income (even if they are not filing with you.) Don't forget to include bonus checks and commission paystubs as well.

- **TAX RETURNS** that you filed this year.

**WE CAN'T HELP YOU WITHOUT THESE DOCUMENTS**

TIP:

- Get print out of gross pay or pay stubs from HR Department
- Lost tax return? Call: 1-800-829-1040

Complete:

2

**Purple Form**

Client questionnaire

**Pink Form**

Common Problem Areas

**Orange Form**

Your Current Financial Picture

**Green Form**

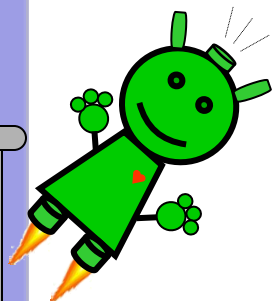
What You Own

**Yellow Form**

What You Owe

Please print out the client checklist along with the following forms

If you own a business there is an additional form you must complete.



What To Bring

Today's work

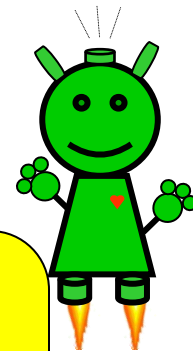
What is Chapter 7?

Quick look at Chapter 13

Process For Ch. 7

Complete Forms

We will get everything done at the first appointment if you complete all the FORMS and bring in your PAYSTUBS and TAX RETURN. These documents help us evaluate your financial situation to see if bankruptcy is right for you.



## Keep the appointment

3



We ask that you pull your credit report from the website below, prior to your first meeting with the paralegal.

<http://www.experian.com/reportaccess/>

You may have to cut and paste this link onto your browser, you should not have to pay for this report.



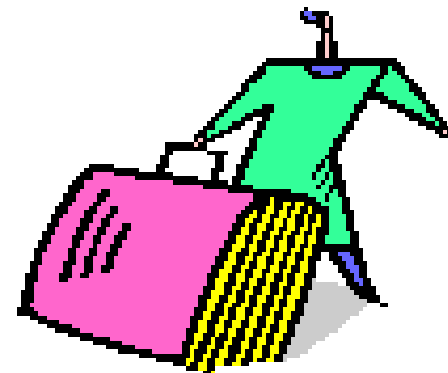
• We review what information is not on the credit reports. i.e.:

- Debt collectors
- Home Owners Association
- Medicals
- Taxes

• Later on we will download a computer search on you (we do this before the court does)

• We go over all forms :

- Purple – Client questionnaire
- Pink – Common problem areas
- Green – What you own/ Own a business
- Yellow – What you owe
- Orange – Your current financial picture



What To Bring

Today's Work

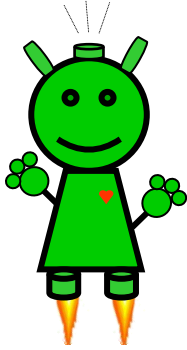
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Complete Forms

## Introducing, Chapter 7! What is it?



- The most common personal bankruptcy is Chapter 7.
- Chapter 7 gets rid of debts like:
  - credit cards/business credit cards
  - car repossessions
  - foreclosures
  - medical bills
- Chapter 7 **WON'T** get rid of debts like:
  - alimony
  - child support
  - student loans
  - most taxes
- The purpose of Chapter 7:
  - stop creditor calls so they can no longer harass you
  - protect your wages from being garnished
  - Chapter 7 cancels your debt and helps rebuild your credit
  - protect you from being sued by a creditor's)



What  
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Forms

What  
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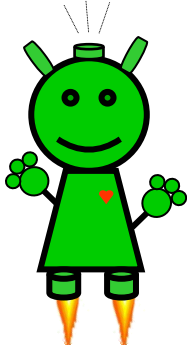
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## What is Chapter 13?

- The government will TRY to push you into Chapter 13 if you have too much income:

More than \$50,296.00 for one person

More than \$63,613.00 family of two

More than \$73,260.00 family of three

More than \$86,990.00 family of four

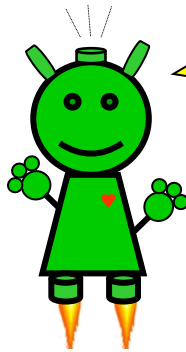


- The government will TRY to push you into Chapter 13 if you have too much stuff:
  - money in the bank over \$5,000.00
  - paid for cars worth more than \$6,000.00
- If you have either of the above, we try to find legal ways to still qualify you for Chapter 7.
  - **SOMETIMES**, Chapter 13 can help you:
    - If you have filed before and it's too soon for you to file again, Chapter 13 will consolidate your debts into manageable payments.
    - Chapter 13 can also be helpful to get rid of a second mortgage on your home.
    - Chapter 13 is used to protect your assets when Ch. 7 cannot
    - Chapter 13 is used when your income is too high and you are not eligible for a Ch. 7





# What Happens In A Chapter 7 Bankruptcy?



## Meet with Lawyer

1

Make sure you are eligible to file, or figure out how to make you eligible.

2

Check out and avoid any other problem areas, including missing documents.

## Discharge Granted

8

- You pull credit reports
- We check that it is correct and that all debts are now showing a zero balance

7

- Final approval – discharge will be mailed out a little over two months after you've attended your hearing



## Pre- and Post- Hearing Date

## Preparing for Hearing

3

- Mandatory Credit Counseling course
- Check up meeting back at office

4

- Hearing preparation meeting – sign papers we send to court.
- Explain court date.

6

- Meet in Alexandria with trustee, show id and social security card
- Wait two months – court will verify that the petition filed lists all your debt and assets.

5

- Mandatory Debtor Education course
- Attend your hearing; 4-5 weeks after signing your petition

**\*\*Send bank statements prior to hearing to Fax: 703-649-0822 or [bankstatements@robertweed.com](mailto:bankstatements@robertweed.com)**

Overview

Today's Work

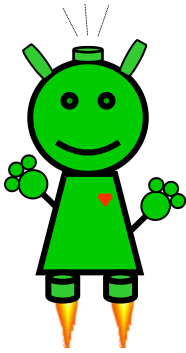
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# Completing The Forms – THE CHECKLIST



Filling in your forms is very important. The more information you give us, the better we are able to analyze your financial and legal situation in order to determine the best way to handle your case. i.e. Are you eligible to file for bankruptcy – if so, what Chapter (7 or 13).

If we have wrong information, we might give you wrong advice. We don't want that.

| FORMS   | WHY WE NEED IT  | IS IT DONE? |
|---|---|-------------|
| <b><u>Purple Form</u></b><br>Client questionnaire           | This is the initial information we need in order to understand what brought you to us.  | Check here  |
| <b><u>Pink Form</u></b><br>Common Problem Areas             | This form warns us of any potential problems that may arise during your case – creditor objections to the bankruptcy, etc.                            | Check here  |
| <b><u>Orange Form</u></b><br>Your Current Financial Picture | This form asks for your income. It is a picture of where all your money goes on a monthly basis. It helps us determine eligibility for Chapter 7.     | Check here  |
| <b><u>Green Form</u></b><br>What You Own (BUSINESS)         | This details everything you own. It tells us what you can legally keep or may have to sell. <b>If you own a business fill in that form too.</b>       | Check here  |
| <b><u>Yellow Form</u></b><br>What You Owe                   | This asks you to list all the other debts you may have that a credit report will not show; such as: medical bills or a loan you have with a relative. | Check here  |

Please bring the following to your consultation:

- Last 6 months paystubs
- Tax return filed this year
- All colored forms filled in
- Collection Letters
- Business credit cards
- Medical bills

## TIPS:

- Keep and review current receipts of food bills, medical expenses, utilities, to help calculate your monthly budget.
- Home Owners Association – WE **NEED THE ADDRESS!!**
- Even if you do not have a bill, list any person, or any business that you may owe

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# Mr. Weed says the YELLOW FORM is very SPECIAL!



## Yellow Form

### What You Owe

This asks you to list all the other debts you may have that a credit report will not show; such as: medical bills or a loan you have with a relative.

Check here



When we meet, we will review all your forms and help you pull your credit report if you have not already done so.

Remember you can pull your credit report at:

[www.experian.com/reportaccess/](http://www.experian.com/reportaccess/)

To get your report it will ask for the name of the business involved in adverse action.

Type in **Law Office Robert Weed**

It will then ask you for the date that you were first notified. Please put in the **first day of the current month you are in.**



**There may be debts that are not on your credit report, so we want you to bring us copies of the bills for those.**

**What kinds of bills should you bring?**

1. Homeowner or Condo Associations
2. Former landlords
3. Tax bills
4. Collection agencies
5. Credit cards in business names--like Robert Weed's Lawn Service
6. Friends or family you borrowed money from
7. Child support or alimony--former spouse
8. Child support enforcement agencies
9. Medical bills

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**We look forward to meeting with you. You will enjoy our friendly service with a smile.**



**There is a life after debt!**

