

NEW AMENDMENTS TO ILLINOIS LAW OFFER IMPROVED PROTECTION FROM DEBT COLLECTION

IF YOU OWE MONEY AND A JUDGMENT IS ENTERED AGAINST YOU, YOU ARE STILL ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING PROTECTIONS:

- Up to \$4,000 in “wildcard” personal property. This can include money in a bank account. For judgments entered in or after 2020, \$1,000 in a checking/savings account is automatically temporarily protected from being frozen or taken until the citation hearing.
- The full amount can be garnished after the citation hearing if exemption is not claimed.
- One vehicle's equity, or its value after any loans, up to \$3,600.
- Up to \$50,000 of equity in your home, or up to \$100,000 total if the home is owned by two or more people.
- Everyday household and personal items like furniture, appliances, clothing, phones/computers, pets and medical items that are worth less than \$5,000.
- Necessary clothing, school books and family pictures.
- One piece of jewelry up to \$5,000.
- Tools you need for work up to \$2,250.
- Many public benefits and support payments such as Social Security, unemployment, public assistance, veterans and disability benefits, and support/alimony needed for basic support.
- Certain insurance and compensation payments, including many life insurance/annuity benefits for a spouse or dependent, and personal injury payments up to \$22,500.
- Money in Illinois 529 college savings and ABLE accounts, but there are limits on recent or fraudulent contributions.

CONTACT US

If you have issues with debt collection, PSLS may be able to assist you. Visit pslegal.org or call PSLS at 800-531-7057 to speak with a member of our staff and apply for our services.