



Frequently Asked Questions (NOT LEGAL ADVICE)

1. I do not want to go to Court. How do I avoid the Court date?

You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. If you choose to represent yourself, you may avoid the entry of a judgment on Plaintiff's Petition by paying the full amount, certified funds. The case would be dismissed under those circumstances. Otherwise, you should plan to appear in Court or discuss the matter with your own attorney.

2. I owe the bill and I want to pay in full. Who do I pay and how?

A cashier's check or money order may be made payable to the Plaintiff or "Bessine Walterbach, LLP". Please note your case number or LE account number on the check or money order and mail it to our office: Bessine Walterbach, LLP 3000 NE Brooktree Lane, Suite 100 Kansas City MO 64119. You may also come to our office to pay cash in person. If you want to come after regular business hours to make your payment, we have two drop-boxes outside the locked doors with our logo on them. You may place your payment in either of the drop-boxes. For security reasons, check or money order is probably better than leaving cash in the drop-boxes. For a map to our office, see the "Contact Us" page, at our Web site.

3. I would like to make a settlement offer to resolve the case. How do I do that?

You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. If you choose to represent yourself, you may send us something in writing (email to offers@bw-llp.com, or by fax or mail) telling us your name, case number, why you would like to settle the case, when and for how much. We will then process your request & attempt to get you a response, generally 3 – 10 business days, but may be longer.

4. I owe the bill, but I cannot pay in full. What do I do?

You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. If you choose to represent yourself, you may call our office and notify us of your situation so that your file can be updated. We regularly work with people to set up payment arrangements on judgments. This can be a way of enabling you to pay the bill off over time. Payments can be made as set forth in FAQ above. The minimum payment that is acceptable on a monthly basis varies. If you believe you cannot afford the minimum monthly payment required on your case, you may complete the Special Consideration Application, & your case will be specially reviewed by staff &/or an attorney. Understand that this is for the purpose of attempting to collect a debt, and the information obtained may be used for that purpose. To download the form, return to the FAQ page & click the orange button.

5. I called in & set up payment arrangements or made an agreement to resolve the case. Do I still have to go to court? If I don't go, will a warrant be issued for my arrest?

You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. If you choose to represent yourself, you must make your own decision about what you want to do. If you received a summons to appear in court, please read it carefully. Unless the case is dismissed prior to the court date, the case will be called and at that time it is your right to appear in court to be sure your interests are being protected. We do not recommend that you miss court. However, we understand you may not want to go. The decision to appear or not is yours, and yours alone. We cannot say specifically what will happen to your case in court, that is legal advice only your own attorney can give you. In most cases, absent payment in full, a prior agreement to continue, an appearance by the defendant or a legal defense properly raised, we typically would seek a judgment. If we have agreed to a payment arrangement with you, we will honor that agreement. If regular payments are timely made, no legal action upon the judgment is taken to collect what is owed, you simply continue making your payments. If a payment is late or is missed, legal action upon the judgment to collect the balance may be taken. Our office does not request the issuance of warrants for a single missed court date in civil cases like these.

6. Does this show up on my credit report? How is my credit affected?

Only an attorney that represents you could accurately answer this question. You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. We cannot give any legal advice as to how your interests might be affected in this regard.

7. Do I really have to pay interest & court costs?

You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. If you choose to represent yourself, you may do so. Our clients claim you owe these amounts because money has a time value and refusal or delay in payment has forced the Plaintiff to file with the Court, incurring additional costs. For example, a claim for court costs is usually made because those have been prepaid by Plaintiff. We do not add hidden costs or fees – the charges are all as stated in the petition you received. Interest accrues according to applicable statutes or contracts.

8. You have a garnishment on me but I would rather make payments instead. Can I do that?

You should speak to your own attorney to review your options. Once a garnishment is requested, issued, and served upon the garnishee, we typically do not release the garnishment. However, to stop the garnishment, you may pay in full by certified funds. Call the office to get a final payoff amount for the date you intend to pay.

9. I left a voicemail but nobody called me back. What gives?

We receive many phone calls every day. Your call is important to us and we look forward to discussing your case with you to help resolve the matter. We have multiple phone lines to help us assist all callers, so you should not get a busy signal. After you listen to a brief recorded message, our receptionist should answer and assist you. If you are transferred & arrive at a voicemail inbox, please leave a message with a case number and a good time to call you back. It is our office policy that we return all voicemails left for us. However, when we call back in response to your message, for legal reasons we do NOT leave voicemails in return. In most circumstances we will call back only once.

When possible, if the first call-back is not successful we try one more time. If you have not heard back from us within two business days, please call back. Also you may contact us anytime at the following e-mail addresses which are regularly monitored: admin@bw-llp.com (correspondence) or offers@bw-llp.com (settlement offers). Or, you may fax us a letter to 816-436-2574. You may also mail a letter to our mailing address.

We handle thousands of cases. If you are trying to reach us 24 – 48 hours before your court date, you probably have not allowed sufficient time for us to respond appropriately to your question(s) or issue(s). You should appear in court as scheduled.

10. Can I pay online or make other electronic payments?

No. You can mail a check or money order, or you may pay in cash if you come to our office. You may also drop a payment in either of our drop-boxes located at the entry doors to our building at any time. We do not recommend mailing cash or leaving cash in the drop-boxes. Some people choose to set up bill-pay through their bank, who would generate & send us a check. Depending on your bank, there could be a fee for that service.

11. Will you send me a monthly bill reminding me of my payment?

No, we do not send bills. Once we have agreed to a monthly payment arrangement with you, it is up to you to remember to make your payments. Our staff may provide you with a Payment Instruction Sheet upon request. If you'd like a receipt or a balance, please include a written note with your payment requesting what you want, & we will send it to you. Remember interest may be accruing on your debt, so if you need a payoff amount, please call the office.