

## Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

Are credit card bills, medical bills, or personal loans sinking you financially? If so, you may be able to cut free from the dead weight of unsecured debts by filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Under Chapter 7, a court can forgive some of a petitioner's debts and order some of his or her assets liquidated, with the proceeds from the sale going toward paying back creditors. Tully Rinckey PLLC's bankruptcy attorneys in Buffalo, N.Y. have helped many New Yorkers – young and old – achieve a financial fresh start by filing for Chapter 7. Call us today to schedule a free initial consultation with one of our bankruptcy lawyers to learn if Chapter 7 is right for you. **What We Can Do for You**

Once you file for Chapter 7, creditors must stop harassing you with their collection efforts. Our Buffalo, N.Y. bankruptcy lawyers will aggressively defend your rights and fight to get your unsecured debts (e.g., credit card bills, medical bills, personal loans) discharged, meaning the court forgives them forever and creditors can no longer attempt to collect them. The Chapter 7 services that Tully Rinckey PLLC's bankruptcy attorneys in Buffalo, N.Y. can perform to help you in your pursuit of a financial fresh start include the following:

- Conducting means test calculations to determine Chapter 7 eligibility;

- Chapter 7 petition preparation;
- Inventorying assets to determine which assets are covered by exemptions and which ones could be liquidated;

- Identifying dischargeable debts;

- Providing representation at the meeting of creditors, at which attendance is mandatory for petitioners;

- Providing guidance on pre- and post-petition asset management;

- Responding to creditors' failures to honor the automatic stay triggered by a bankruptcy filing by seeking injunctions or monetary sanctions; and

- Defending the petitioner in bankruptcy litigation in the event of preferential payment, preferential transfer or fraudulent conveyance claims are made.

### Requirements

The Bankruptcy Code requires debtors to pass a so-called "means test" to qualify for Chapter 7. The purpose of this test is to make sure petitioners do not abuse the bankruptcy system. Generally, the median income for the six-month period prior to the bankruptcy filing of qualifying petitioners is below the median income for similarly sized families in their geographic region. But petitioners with incomes over this amount may still qualify for Chapter 7, depending on whether the amount of their disposable income. Another Chapter 7

requirement is the completion of a credit counseling course. Petitioners must include a certificate attesting to the completion of such counseling with their Chapter 7 petition. Petitioners must also complete a personal financial management course and submit a certificate to the court within 45 days of filing for bankruptcy. Additionally, the petitioner's attendance at a meeting of creditors is mandatory. The bankruptcy attorneys at Tully Rinckey PLLC in Buffalo, N.Y. can serve debtors and creditors throughout Western New York, including Buffalo, West Seneca, Lackawanna, Cheektowaga, Depew, North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, and Lockport. To schedule a free consultation with a bankruptcy lawyer, call us at 716-439-4700 or e-mail at [info@1888law4life.com](mailto:info@1888law4life.com)

For urgent legal matters, call us 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 716-439-4700. We are responsive to the needs of our current and prospective clients and will respond to phone calls within business hours. We respond to e-mails within business hours on the same day. For the quickest response, call us.

During normal business hours, our client relations team can help put potential clients in contact with lawyers who can address their legal concerns. Anyone who calls or e-mails us after hours should expect to hear from us during the next business day.