

CHAPTER 571

GARNISHMENT

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571.72 GENERAL GARNISHMENT PROVISIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 6, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 7. **Forms.** No creditor shall use a form that contains alterations or changes from the statutory forms that mislead debtors as to their rights and the garnishment procedure generally. If a court finds that a creditor has used a misleading form, the debtor shall be awarded actual damages, costs, reasonable attorney's fees resulting from additional proceedings, and an amount not to exceed \$100. All forms must be clearly legible and printed in not less than the equivalent of 10-point type. A form that uses both sides of a sheet must clearly indicate on the front side that there is additional information on the back side of the sheet.

Forms, including the statutory forms, used in garnishments of earnings for the satisfaction of judgments for child support must be changed by the creditor to reflect the fact that the 70-day period of effectiveness does not apply to these garnishments if the judgment creditor is a county and the employer is notified by the county when the judgment is satisfied.

[For text of subds 8 and 9, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 156 s 15

571.73 PROPERTY ATTACHABLE BY GARNISHMENT; GOOD FAITH REQUIREMENT.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 3. **Property attachable.** Subject to the exemptions provided by sections 550.37 and 571.922 and any other applicable statute, the service of a garnishment summons under this chapter attaches:

(1) except as otherwise provided in clause (4), all unpaid nonexempt disposable earnings owed or to be owed by the garnishee and earned or to be earned by the debtor within the pay period in which the garnishment summons is served and within all subsequent pay periods whose paydays occur within the 70 days after the date of service of the garnishment summons. "Payday" means the day upon which the garnishee pays earnings to the debtor in the ordinary course of business. If the debtor has no regular paydays, "payday" means the 15th day and the last day of each month;

(2) all other nonexempt indebtedness, money, or other property due or belonging to the debtor and owing by the garnishee or in the possession or under the control of the garnishee at the time of service of the garnishment summons, whether or not the same has become payable. The garnishee shall not be compelled to pay or deliver the same before the time specified by any agreement unless the agreement was fraudulently contracted to defeat a garnishment or other collection remedy;

(3) all other nonexempt intangible or tangible personal property of the debtor in the possession or under the control of the garnishee at the time of service of the garnishment summons, including property of any kind due from or in the hands of an executor, administrator, personal representative, receiver, or trustee, and all written evidences of indebtedness whether or not negotiable or not yet underdue or overdue; and

(4) for a garnishment on a judgment for child support by a county, all unpaid non-

exempt disposable earnings owed or to be owed by the garnishee and earned or to be earned by the debtor within the pay period in which the garnishment summons is served and within all subsequent pay periods until the judgment is satisfied.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 156 s 16

571.912 FORM OF EXEMPTION NOTICE.

The notice informing a debtor that an order for attachment, garnishment summons, or levy by execution has been used to attach funds of the debtor to satisfy a claim must be substantially in the following form:

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF

.....(Creditor)

.....(Debtor)

TO: Debtor

DISTRICT COURT

.....JUDICIAL DISTRICT

EXEMPTION NOTICE

An order for attachment, garnishment summons, or levy of execution (strike inapplicable language) has been served on (bank or other financial institution) where you have an account.

Your account balance is \$.....

The amount being held is \$.....

However, all or a portion of the funds in your account will normally be exempt from creditors' claims if they are in one of the following categories:

(1) relief based on need. This includes: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), AFDC-Emergency Assistance (AFDC-EA), Medical Assistance (MA), General Assistance (GA), General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), Emergency General Assistance (EGA), Work Readiness, Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), MSA Emergency Assistance (MSA-EA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Energy Assistance;

(2) Social Security benefits (Old Age, Survivors, or Disability Insurance);

(3) unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, or veterans' benefits;

(4) an accident, disability, or retirement pension or annuity;

(5) life insurance proceeds;

(6) the earnings of your minor child and any child support paid to you; or

(7) money from a claim for damage or destruction of exempt property (such as household goods, farm tools, business equipment, a mobile home, or a car).

The following funds are also exempt:

(8) all earnings of a person in category (1);

(9) all earnings of a person who has received relief based on need, or who has been an inmate of a correctional institution, within the last six months;

(10) 75 percent of every debtor's after tax earnings; and

(11) all of a debtor's after tax earnings below 40 times the federal minimum wage.

TIME LIMIT ON EXEMPTIONS AFTER DEPOSIT IN BANK:

Categories (10) and (11): 20 days

Categories (8) and (9): 60 days

All others: no time limit, as long as funds are traceable to the exempt source. (In tracing funds, the first-in, first-out method is used. This means money deposited first is spent first.) The money being sought by the creditor is being held in your account to give you a chance to claim an exemption.

TO CLAIM AN EXEMPTION:

Fill out, sign, and mail or deliver one copy of the attached exemption claim form to the institution which sent you this notice and mail or deliver one copy to the credi-

tor's attorney. In the event that there is no attorney for the creditor, then such notice shall be sent directly to the creditor. The address for the creditor's attorney or the creditor is set forth below. Both copies must be mailed or delivered on the same day.

If they do not get the exemption claim back from you within 14 days of the date they mailed or gave it to you, they will be free to turn the money over to the sheriff or the creditor. If you are going to claim an exemption, do so as soon as possible, because your money may be held until it is decided.

IF YOU CLAIM AN EXEMPTION:

- (1) nonexempt money can be turned over to the creditor or sheriff;
- (2) the financial institution will keep holding the money claimed to be exempt; and
- (3) seven days after receiving your exemption claim, the financial institution will release the money to you unless before then it receives an objection to your exemption claim.

IF THE CREDITOR OBJECTS TO YOUR EXEMPTION CLAIM:

The institution will hold the money until a court decides if your exemption claim is valid, **BUT ONLY IF** the institution gets a copy of your court motion papers asserting the exemption **WITHIN TEN DAYS** after the objection is mailed or given to you. You may wish to consult an attorney at once if the creditor objects to your exemption claim.

MOTION TO DETERMINE EXEMPTION:

At any time after your funds have been held, you may ask for a court decision on the validity of your exemption claim by filing a request for hearing which may be obtained at the office of the court administrator of the above court.

PENALTIES:

If you claim an exemption in bad faith, or if the creditor wrongly objects to an exemption in bad faith, the court may order the person who acted in bad faith to pay costs, actual damages, attorney fees, and an additional amount of up to \$100.

.....

 Name and address of (Attorney
 for) Judgment Creditor

EXEMPTION:

(If you claim an exemption complete the following):

(a) Amount of exemption claim.

// I claim **ALL** the funds being held are exempt.

// I claim **SOME** of the funds being held are exempt.

The exempt amount is \$.....

(b) Basis for exemption.

Of the eleven categories listed above, I am in category number (If more than one category applies, you may fill in as many as apply.) The source of the exempt funds is the following:

.....

(If the source is a type of relief based on need, list the case number and county:

case number:

county:)

I hereby authorize any agency that has distributed relief to me or any correctional institution in which I was an inmate to disclose to the above named creditor or its attorney only whether or not I am or have been a recipient of relief based on need or an inmate of a correctional institute within the last six months.

I have mailed or delivered a copy of the exemption notice to the creditor's attorney.

DATED:

DEBTOR

DEBTOR ADDRESS

History: 1993 c 156 s 17

571.922 LIMITATION ON WAGE GARNISHMENT.

Unless the judgment is for child support, the maximum part of the aggregate disposable earnings of an individual for any pay period subjected to garnishment may not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) 25 percent of the debtor's disposable earnings; or
- (2) the amount by which the debtor's disposable earnings exceed the following product: 40 times the federal minimum hourly wages prescribed by section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, United States Code, title 29, section 206(a)(1), in effect at the time the earnings are payable, times the number of work weeks in the pay period. When a pay period consists of other than a whole number of work weeks, each day of that pay period in excess of the number of completed work weeks shall be counted as a fraction of a work week equal to the number of excess work days divided by the number of days in the normal work week.

If the judgment is for child support, the garnishment may not exceed:

- (1) 50 percent of the judgment debtor's disposable income, if the judgment debtor is supporting a spouse or dependent child and the judgment is 12 weeks old or less (12 weeks to be calculated to the beginning of the work week in which the execution levy is received);
- (2) 55 percent of the judgment debtor's disposable income, if the judgment debtor is supporting a spouse or dependent child, and the judgment is over 12 weeks old (12 weeks to be calculated to the beginning of the work week in which the garnishment summons is received);
- (3) 60 percent of the judgment debtor's disposable income, if the judgment debtor is not supporting a spouse or dependent child and the judgment is 12 weeks old or less (12 weeks to be calculated to the beginning of the work week in which the execution levy is received); or
- (4) 65 percent of the judgment debtor's disposable income, if the judgment debtor is not supporting a spouse or dependent child, and the judgment is over 12 weeks old (12 weeks to be calculated to the beginning of the work week in which the garnishment summons is received).

Wage garnishments on judgments for child support are effective until the judgments are satisfied if the judgment creditor is a county and the employer is notified by the county when the judgment is satisfied.

No court may make, execute, or enforce an order or any process in violation of this section.

History: 1993 c 156 s 18

571.923 MULTIPLE EARNINGS GARNISHMENTS.

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or section 518.611, subdivision 6, the priority of multiple earnings garnishments shall be determined by the order in which the garnishment summonses were served on the employer. If the employer is served with two or more garnishment summonses at the same time on the same day, the garnishment summons issued pursuant to the first judgment entered has priority. If two or more garnishment summonses are served on the same day and are based on judgments entered on the same day or if there are two or more garnishment summonses based on prejudgment garnishment pursuant to section 571.93, then the employer shall select the priority of the earnings garnishments. However, in all cases except wage gar-

nishments on judgments for child support if the judgment creditor is a county and the employer is notified by the county when the judgment is satisfied, garnishments shall be effective no longer than 70 days from the date of the service of the garnishment summons.

History: *1993 c 156 s 19*