

Instructions for the Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income and Means Test Calculation

If you are filing under chapter 11, 12, or 13, do not fill out this form.

How to fill out these forms

Official Forms 22A-1 and 22A-2 determine whether your income and expenses create a presumption of abuse that may prevent you from obtaining relief from your debts under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. Chapter 7 relief can be denied to a person who has primarily consumer debts if the court finds that the person has enough income to repay creditors an amount that, under the Bankruptcy Code, would be a sufficient portion of their claims.

You must file 22A-1, the *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 22A-1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income for households of the same size in your state. If your income is not above the median, there is no presumption of abuse and you will not have to fill out the second form.

Similarly, *Statement of Exemption from Presumption of Abuse Under § 707(b)(2)* (Official Form 22A-1Supp) determines whether you may be exempted from the presumption of abuse because you do not have primarily consumer debts or because you have provided certain military or homeland defense services. If one of these exemptions applies, you should file a supplement, Form 22A-1Supp, and verify the supplement by completing Part 3 of Form 22A-1. If you qualify for an exemption, you are not required to fill out any part of Form 22A-1 other than the verification. If the exemptions do not apply, you should complete all of the parts of Form 22A-1 and file it without the supplemental form.

If you and your spouse are filing together, you and your spouse may file a single Form 22A-1. However, if an exemption on Form 22A-1Supp applies to only one of you, separate forms may be required.

11 U.S.C. § 707(b)(2)(C).

If your completed Form 22A-1 shows income above the median, you must file the second form, *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 22A-2). The calculations on this form—sometimes called the *Means Test*—reduce your income by living expenses and payment of certain debts, resulting in an amount available to pay other debts. If this amount is high enough, it will give rise to a *presumption of abuse*. A presumption of abuse does not mean you are actually trying to abuse the bankruptcy system. Rather, the presumption simply means that you are presumed to have enough income that you should not be granted relief under chapter 7. You may overcome the presumption by showing special circumstances that reduce your income or increase your expenses.

If you cannot obtain relief under chapter 7, you may be eligible to continue under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code and pay creditors over a period of time.

Read each question carefully. You may not be required to answer every question on this form. For example, your military status may determine whether you must fill out the entire form. The instructions will alert you if you may skip questions.

If you have nothing to report for a line, write \$0.

Information for completing the forms

To fill out several lines of the forms, you must look up information provided on websites or from other sources. For information to complete line 13 of Form 22A-1 and lines 6-15, 30, and 36 of Form 22A-2, go to: www.justice.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/meanstesting.htm.

If your case is filed in Alabama or North Carolina, the administrative expense multiplier mentioned at line 36 of Form 22A-2 can be found at: www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/AdministrativeExpensesMultiplier.aspx

For the *Bankruptcy Basics* information referred to on line 36 of Form 22A-2, go to:
www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyBasics.aspx.

If you do not have a computer with internet access, you may be able to use a public computer at the bankruptcy clerk's office or at a public library,

Things to remember when filling out these forms

- Be as complete and accurate as possible.
- If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).
- If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information.

Do not include these instructions when you submit your bankruptcy forms to the court. Keep them for your records.