

CHAPTER 551

ATTORNEY'S SUMMARY EXECUTIONS

551.05 Attorney's summary execution upon funds at a financial institution.

551.06 Attorney's summary execution upon earnings.

551.05 ATTORNEY'S SUMMARY EXECUTION UPON FUNDS AT A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

Subdivision 1. Exemption notice. If the writ of execution is being used by the attorney to levy funds of a judgment debtor who is a natural person and if the funds to be levied are held on deposit at any financial institution, the attorney for the judgment creditor shall serve with the writ of execution two copies of an exemption notice. The notice must be substantially in the form set forth below. Failure of the attorney for the judgment creditor to send the exemption notice renders the execution levy void, and the financial institution shall take no action. However, if this subdivision is being used to execute on funds that have previously been garnished in compliance with section 571.71, the attorney for judgment creditor is not required to serve an additional exemption notice. In that event, the execution levy shall only be effective as to the funds that were subject to the prior garnishment. Upon receipt of the writ of execution and exemption notices, the financial institution shall retain as much of the amount due under section 550.04 as the financial institution has on deposit owing to the judgment debtor, but not more than 100 percent of the amount remaining due on the judgment, or \$5,000, whichever is less.

The notice informing a judgment debtor that an execution levy has been used to attach funds of the judgment debtor to satisfy a claim must be substantially in the following form:

STATE OF MINNESOTA

County of

.....(Judgment Creditor)

.....(Judgment Debtor)

TO: Judgment 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; 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 judgment debtor's after tax earnings; or
- (11) all of a judgment 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 judgment 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 judgment creditor's attorney. The address for the judgment creditor's attorney 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 attorney for the judgment 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 judgment 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 JUDGMENT 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 judgment 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 clerk of the above court.

PENALTIES:

If you claim an exemption in bad faith, or if the judgment 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:

(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 11 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 judgment creditor's 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 judgment creditor's attorney.

.....
DEBTOR

DATED:

.....
.....
.....

DEBTOR ADDRESS

[For text of subs 2 to 8, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 199 art 1 s 81

551.06 ATTORNEY'S SUMMARY EXECUTION UPON EARNINGS.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 3. Limitation on levy on earnings. Unless the judgment is for child support, the maximum part of the aggregate disposable earnings of an individual for any pay period subjected to an execution levy may not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) 25 percent of the judgment debtor's disposable earnings; or
- (2) the amount by which the judgment 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 levy 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 execution levy 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 execution levy is received).

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

[For text of subs 4 to 9, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 10. Notice of levy on earnings, disclosure, and worksheet for child support judgment. The attorney for the judgment creditor shall serve upon the judgment debtor's employer a notice of levy on earnings and an execution earnings disclosure form and an earnings disclosure worksheet with the writ of execution, that must be substantially in the form set forth below.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF

DISTRICT COURT
..... JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILE NO.

.....(Judgment Creditor)
against

NOTICE OF LEVY ON
EARNINGS AND DISCLOSURE

.....(Judgment Debtor)
and

.....(Third Party)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 551.04 and 551.06, the undersigned, as attorney for the judgment creditor, hereby makes demand and levies execution upon all earnings due and owing by you (up to \$5,000) to the judgment debtor for the amount of the judgment specified below. A copy of the writ of execution issued by the court is enclosed. The unpaid judgment balance is \$.....

This levy attaches all unpaid nonexempt disposable earnings owing or to be owed by you and earned or to be earned by the judgment debtor before and within the pay period in which the writ of execution is served and within all subsequent pay periods whose paydays occur within the 70 days after the service of this levy.

In responding to this levy, you are to complete the attached disclosure form and worksheet and mail it to the undersigned attorney for the judgment creditor, together with your check payable to the above-named judgment creditor, for the nonexempt amount owed by you to the judgment debtor or for which you are obligated to the judgment debtor, within the time limits set forth in the aforementioned statutes.

.....
Attorney for the Judgment Creditor
.....
.....
.....

Address

(...).....

Phone Number

DISCLOSURE

DEFINITIONS

"EARNINGS": For the purpose of execution, "earnings" means compensation paid or payable to an employee for personal services or compensation paid or payable to the producer for the sale of agricultural products; milk or milk products; or fruit or other horticultural products produced when the producer is operating a family farm, a family farm corporation, or an authorized farm corporation, as defined in section

500.24, subdivision 2, whether denominated as wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and includes periodic payments pursuant to a pension or retirement, workers' compensation, or unemployment compensation.

"DISPOSABLE EARNINGS": Means that part of the earnings of an individual remaining after the deduction from those earnings of amounts required by law to be withheld. (Amounts required by law to be withheld do not include items such as health insurance, charitable contributions, or other voluntary wage deductions.)

"PAYDAY": For the purpose of execution, "payday(s)" means the date(s) upon which the employer pays earnings to the debtor in the ordinary course of business. If the judgment debtor has no regular payday, payday(s) means the 15th and the last day of each month.

THE THIRD PARTY/EMPLOYER MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

(1) Do you now owe, or within 70 days from the date the execution levy was served on you, will you or may you owe money to the judgment debtor for earnings?

.....

Yes No

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE EARNINGS DISCLOSURE

A. If your answer to question 1 is "No," then you must sign the affirmation below and return this disclosure to the judgment creditor's attorney within 20 days after it was served on you, and you do not need to answer the remaining questions.

B. If your answer to question 1 is "Yes," you must complete this form and the Earnings Disclosure Worksheet as follows:

For each payday that falls within 70 days from the date the execution levy was served on you, YOU MUST calculate the amount of earnings to be retained by completing steps 2 through 8 on page 2, and enter the amounts on the Earnings Disclosure Worksheet. UPON REQUEST, THE EMPLOYER MUST PROVIDE THE DEBTOR WITH INFORMATION AS TO HOW THE CALCULATIONS REQUIRED BY THIS DISCLOSURE WERE MADE.

Each payday, you must retain the amount of earnings listed in column G on the Earnings Disclosure Worksheet.

You must pay the attached earnings and return this earnings disclosure form and the Earnings Disclosure Worksheet to the judgment creditor's attorney and deliver a copy of the disclosure and worksheet to the judgment debtor within ten days after the last payday that falls within the 70-day period. If the judgment is wholly satisfied or if the judgment debtor's employment ends before the expiration of the 70-day period, your disclosure and remittance should be made within ten days after the last payday for which earnings were attached.

For steps 2 through 8, "columns" refers to columns on the Earnings Disclosure Worksheet.

(2) COLUMN A. Enter the date of judgment debtor's payday.

(3) COLUMN B. Enter judgment debtor's gross earnings for each payday.

(4) COLUMN C. Enter judgment debtor's disposable earnings for each payday.

(5) COLUMN D. Enter either 50, 55, 60, or 65 percent of disposable earnings, based on which of the following descriptions fits the child support judgment debtor:

(a) 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);

(b) 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 execution levy is received);

(c) 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

(d) 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 execution levy is received). (Multiply column C by .50, .55, .60, or .65, as appropriate.)

(6) COLUMN E. Enter here any amount claimed by you as a setoff, defense, lien, or claim, or any amount claimed by any other person as an exemption or adverse interest that would reduce the amount of earnings owing to the judgment debtor. (Note: Any indebtedness to you incurred within ten days prior to your receipt of the first execution levy on a debt may not be set off against the earnings otherwise subject to this levy. Any wage assignment made by the judgment debtor within ten days prior to your receipt of the first execution levy on a debt is void.)

You must also describe your claim(s) and the claims of others, if known, in the space provided below the worksheet and state the name(s) and address(es) of these persons.

Enter zero in column E if there are no claims by you or others that would reduce the amount of earnings owing to the judgment debtor.

(7) COLUMN F. Subtract the amount in column E from the amount in column D and enter here. This is the amount of earnings that you must remit for the payday for which the calculations were made.

AFFIRMATION

I, (person signing Affirmation), am the third party/employer or I am authorized by the third party/employer to complete this earnings disclosure, and have done so truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.

Dated:

.....
Signature

.....
Title

.....
Telephone Number

EARNINGS DISCLOSURE WORKSHEET

.....
Debtor's Name

A Payday Date	B Gross Earnings	C Disposable Earnings
1.	\$.....	\$.....
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

D Either 50, 55, 60, or 65% of Column C	E Setoff, Lien, Adverse Interest, or Other Claims	F Column D minus Column E
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
TOTAL OF COLUMN F \$.....		

***If you entered any amount in column E for any payday(s), you must describe below either your claims, or the claims of others. For amounts claimed by others, you must both state the names and addresses of such persons, and the nature of their claim, if known.**

.....

AFFIRMATION

I, (person signing Affirmation), am the third party or I am authorized by the third party to complete this earnings disclosure worksheet, and have done so truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: Title Signature (...)..... Phone Number
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[For text of subs 11 to 14, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 156 s 17,18