

NOTICE REGARDING
(1) CREDIT COUNSELING AND
(2) POST-PETITION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE

1. ***Before*** we can even ***file*** your bankruptcy case you must undergo a bankruptcy credit counseling session. This is done either on the telephone or over the internet. You must contact one of the government-approved counselors to sell you their counseling services. Upon completion you will be issued a "Bankruptcy Briefing Certificate." You are responsible for seeing to it that your counselor sends us the certificate. We will then file it with the court when we file your case.

2. ***After*** your case has been filed you must comply with step two of the counseling requirements. You must also complete a "Financial Management Course". This must be completed and filed within 45 days of the first meeting of creditors set for chapter 7 filers, and for chapter 13 filers, before your last payment is due to the chapter 13 trustee. Furthermore, you are required to sign an official form certifying that it was in fact you who took the Financial Management course. That form must also be filed with the court within the same time period. Do not let these dates sneak up on you. There is no grace period. If you do not take care of this you will forfeit your discharge. In other words, even though you have gone through a bankruptcy case, none of your debt will be forgiven. Do not wait. Get right on this, preferably even before we go to your first courthouse Meeting of Creditors.

3. **How to do your sessions.** You can use any of the government-approved counselors. The prices vary widely. You can take the classes over the internet or by phone. We have secured a great value with a provider. Money Sharp charges \$10.00 if you take the Credit Counseling Course online; and \$10.00 for the Financial Management Course online, whether single or joint. To take the credit counseling course online go to www.MoneySharp.org (Attorney code RANNICK). Money Sharp's phone number is 1-866-200-6825. They do not offer courses by phone.

To take the credit counseling course by phone call Access 24/7 at 1-888-234-7209 (Attorney code KR13398). The fee (including a \$5.00 payment processing fee) for the Credit Counseling course is \$30.00. The fee for the Financial Management Course (including a \$5.00 payment processing fee) is \$20.00.

For those of you who have no banking relationship you may come by this office and pay us cash and we can pay the fees through our office. If you choose to use our office you will not be charged for the use of the computer or phone, however there is an additional

fee required if we pay the Credit Counseling or Financial Management Course fees through our bank on your behalf, because we have to be on the phone for a while to post the payment. This fee must be paid up front. *Please contact the office for current rates and to schedule a time when a conference room is available.*

You can also check the website of the United States Trustee to find the most recent list of Pre-Bankruptcy Credit Counselors at:

http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo.bapcpa/ccde/CC_Files/CC_Approved_Agencies_HTML/cc_tennessee/cc_tennessee.htm.

There is also a current list of Post-Bankruptcy Financial Management Course providers at:

http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/bapcpa/ccde/DE_Files/DE_Approved_Agencies_HTML/de_tennessee/de_tennessee.htm.

For both the pre-filing credit counseling certificate and also the post-filing financial management course certificate, have the provider send by email the certificate to Barbara at our **email** address:

Chapter7@lawyerchattanooga.com

NOTICE TO GEORGIA RESIDENTS— When you do Credit Counseling or take the Financial Management Course tell the counselor to (1) Print the certificate for filing in the EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE and (2) confirm the proper spelling of your name.

Debtor

Joint Debtor

Date: _____

Date: _____