

Law Office of Jonathan D. Petersen

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Collecting on your Judgment (Indiana)

Once the Court awards you a money judgment for damages caused by the defendant(s), how do you collect? I have observed that, occasionally, defendant(s) will make payments towards the judgment without any additional efforts by you. Unfortunately this scenario is the rare exception. More often, you will have to return to Court to enforce your judgment.

Deciding whether to proceed with the collection process is fundamentally a business decision that you must make. A judgment is no guarantee that you will ever collect the amounts owed to you. My experience suggests that unless the defendant(s) have some source of better than average income or savings, the likelihood of collecting on your judgment is slim. For example, defendant(s) whose source of income is a minimum wage job (*e.g.* McDonald's) are poor candidates for a successful collection. On the other hand, I have observed that defendant(s) employed with the local utility, US Steel, the casino boats or other similar companies are better collection prospects. In order to maximize the probability of collecting, you will need to provide to my office the name and address of the defendant's(s') employer at the time you decide to begin collection proceedings.

Please refer to the Client Authorization for Legal Services agreement for information on legal fees, costs and expenses you may incur. My office typically transmits payments that we receive on your behalf on a quarterly basis.

If you decide to pursue collections against the defendant(s), please complete and return to my law office the Client Authorization for Legal Services form and include the name, address, and telephone number, of the employer for debtor(s)/defendant(s).

We also provide lease and rental forms to landlords including our updated Model Lease for Indiana, tenant application and security deposit letter (required by statute). Visit www.attorneypetersen.com and click on Document Center.

Effective Date: 8/24/2018

Client Authorization for Legal Services

The undersigned ("Client") does hereby agree to employ the Law Office of Jonathan Petersen, Attorney at Law, 1544 45th Avenue, Suite 3, Munster, IN 43621, 219-803-4550 ("Attorney Petersen") to provide legal services upon the terms and conditions stated below for the following: **COLLECTION ON EVICTION JUDGMENT.**

1. **DISCLOSURE OF RISKS:** The Client acknowledges that Attorney Petersen has communicated adequate information, and has explained all material risks of and reasonable available alternatives to the proposed course of conduct. The Client further acknowledges having read the document "Collecting on Your Judgment (Indiana)"
2. **SCOPE OF SERVICES:** The services provided by Attorney Petersen to Client shall include the following:
 - a. Filing of a motion for proceedings supplemental.
 - b. Appear on behalf of Client for one (1) hearing on proceedings supplemental.
 - c. Filing of a motion to garnish wages. (If applicable)
3. **FEE & PAYMENT:** The legal fee for file set-up is \$150.00. Additionally, the legal fee for collection work is thirty-six percent (36%) of all amounts collected by either you or Attorney Petersen at any stage in the process. The client shall be responsible and pay all incurred expenses including, and not limited to, skip tracing, postage, copies, certified mail, process server fee, bank account garnishment fee, *etc.* If the matter progresses beyond those services indicated above (*e.g. contempt, bench warrant, bank account garnishment, discovery, litigation, etc.*) then the client will be responsible for attorney fees at the rate of \$275.00 per hour and support staff fees at the rate of \$150.00 per hour. You hereby agree that Attorney Petersen may offset for all overdue amounts in this or any other matter we handle for you from any amounts collected for you in this or any other matter and you further consent for my firm to charge any credit or debit card you have provided for unpaid amounts due and owing in this or any other matter we are handling for you. You understand and agree that any bill, statement or invoice issued from my law firm not disputed by you in writing within 15 days from its issuance is accepted by you as a correct statement of the amounts due and payable from you to my law firm. Payment must be made within 15 days and amounts past due over 30 days will accrue interest at 18% per annum.
4. **CLIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**
 - a. The Client agrees to promptly provide to Attorney Petersen all information/documents necessary for the representation including and not limited to the following:

Case Number: _____

Amount of Judgment: \$ _____

FIRST DEFENDANT

Name of Debtor _____

Debtor(s) Social Security Number: _____

Debtor(s) Birth Date: _____

Name of Debtor's Employer: _____

Client Authorization for Legal Services

Address of Debtor's Employer: _____

Telephone Number of Debtor's Employer: _____

SECOND DEFENDANT

Name of Debtor _____

Debtor(s) Social Security Number: _____

Debtor(s) Birth Date: _____

Name of Debtor's Employer: _____

Address of Debtor's Employer: _____

Telephone Number of Debtor's Employer: _____

- b. The Client acknowledges and understands that the failure to provide the above information or other necessary information or documents in a timely manner may adversely affect any outcome.
- 5. USE OF OTHER ATTORNEYS:** Attorney Petersen may from time to time use and employ other attorneys ("Other Attorneys") to assist in the representation. Attorney Petersen shall pay the Other Attorneys from the amounts paid by Client and the Client shall incur no additional fees or charges. The amount Attorney Petersen pays to Other Attorneys shall be in proportion to the services performed by each lawyer. By signing below, Client agrees and assents to this arrangement.
- 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP:** No attorney-client relationship is established until such time that this Client Authorization for Legal Services is fully executed by both the undersigned Client and Attorney Petersen.

Signature of Client

Date

Printed Name of Client

Jonathan Petersen

Credit Card Payment Coupon & General Contact Information for Law Office

We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express. Please complete the information below and return:

Name of Cardholder		
Card Number		
Expiration Date		
Security Code (last 3 numbers found above signature)		
Billing Address for Credit Card		
<i>GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LAW OFFICE</i>		
Mailing Address (if different from Billing Address)		
Telephone Number		
Cellular Number		
FAX Number		
e-mail address		