

## **Caution: Before Proceeding Without an Attorney in Bankruptcy Court**

An individual may file for bankruptcy or appear as a creditor in the bankruptcy court “pro se” or without an attorney. However, the rules and laws governing bankruptcy are complicated and proceeding without legal advice or legal representation may result in unintended financial and legal consequences. Legal advice about filing for bankruptcy or about an existing case or proceeding can only be obtained by a licensed attorney. Paralegals, petition preparers, and people offering typing services are prohibited from giving legal advice. Likewise, **all bankruptcy court employees are prohibited from giving legal advice.**

Below are examples of legal advice that cannot be given by court employees. The court staff cannot:

- tell you whether you should file for bankruptcy or what chapter to file;
- tell you whether filing any motion or adversary proceeding is in your best interest;
- explain the meaning of a particular statute or rule;
- perform legal research for you, including giving names or citations to case law, Bankruptcy Code sections, or other statutes;
- give an interpretation of case law, local or federal rule, or statute;
- help you complete forms or other paperwork;
- give an opinion about a possible result from taking or not taking an action;
- tell you who should receive notice;
- recommend phrasing, specific language, or content to use in paperwork or pleadings;
- tell someone whether they must attend a hearing;
- tell someone what to say in court;
- tell someone whether a particular debt will be, or has been discharged;
- give an opinion as to arguments made in pleadings or possible outcomes;
- provide advice on the best procedure to accomplish a particular goal; and
- advise whether the automatic stay will stop a particular action.

Should you need legal advice, please visit the Court’s [website](#) for more information on obtaining legal help.