

## BANKRUPTCY LAW CHANGES

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Thinking of filing for bankruptcy? A new federal law puts new responsibilities and new rights on people looking to make a clean start through bankruptcy. It is now required that filers must receive credit counseling at some time during the 6 month period before filing. Lawmakers hope that debtors will learn through counseling that bankruptcy should be the option of last resort. The new law also requires that some debtors repay at least a portion of their debts based on what they can afford. A “means” test will be used to determine whether a person should have all their debts erased in chapter 7 or be required to payoff some portion of their debt in chapter 13.

The preferred option to bankruptcy is to payoff debt, even if it takes a long time. Bankruptcy stays on a person’s credit record for up to 10 years making it difficult for them to get credit for a house, car, or other purchase. The bankruptcy on a person’s credit report might also trigger added financial charges, if credit is granted at all.

## STATEMENTS

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Many people don't realize the importance of reading your monthly statements. Monthly statements not only give you your month ending balance but they also list any transactions. These transactions are made up of your checks, ACH's, EFT's and other deposits or withdrawals posting to your account. Please take the time to go over your monthly statement to avoid problems with your account. Please note that if you find any discrepancies in your statement you have 60 days from the day it is printed to dispute them.

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CREDIT UNION NEWS

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CD RATES

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