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WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR CHAPTER 7 MEETING OF CREDITORS

Dear Client:

We are providing you this information so that you know the exact questions the Trustee will ask you at your upcoming Meeting of Creditors. I usually arrive at the hearing room at least 15 to 30 minutes before your meeting so that I can go over these questions with you. Therefore, please arrive at least 30 minutes early so that we have adequate time to prepare.

VERY IMPORTANT: You are required to bring two (2) forms of I.D. to the hearing. You must have a photo I.D. (driver's license) AND a social security card. If you do not have a social security card, a W-2 or 1099 provided by an employer will suffice.

If there is a particular question you are unsure about, please bring it to my attention before the hearing begins. Also, if you have changed jobs or have had a change in income since the filing of your petition, please bring this to my attention. Here are the "standard" questions you will be asked under oath (you will be tape-recorded, so make sure that you respond to them clearly and loudly).

1. State your name and address.
2. Have you read the Bankruptcy Information Sheet required to be given to you by the United States Trustee? (You probably signed this with your paperwork at my office). An extra copy should be included in this packet.

3. Did you read the petition, schedules, statements, and related documents before you signed them?
4. Is this your signature that actually appears on the petition, schedules, statements, and related documents?
5. Are you personally familiar with the information contained in the petition, schedules, statements, and related documents?
6. To the best of your knowledge, is the information contained in the petition, schedules, statements, and related documents true and correct?
7. Are there any errors or omissions to bring to my, or the Court's attention at this time?
8. Are all of your assets identified in the schedules?
9. Have you listed all of your creditors? Even the ones you didn't want to bankrupt on or let know you were filing for bankruptcy relief?
10. Have you ever filed bankruptcy before?
11. Has anyone in your family died in the past year and left you real or personal property?
12. Do you now or have you ever owned real estate? (If so, the trustee will only be interested in your property if you have significant **EQUITY** in the property, so the trustee will ask you how much you paid for the property, if any improvements have been made to the property, how the property is titled, how much you owe on the property, how much you think the property is worth, and how you arrived these amounts – example, an appraisal, etc. If you do not have very much equity in your property, the trustee is generally not interested in it.)
13. Have you ever made any transfers of any property or given any property away within the past year?
14. Why did you file this Chapter 7 bankruptcy? (The trustee just needs a short answer, such as: loss of job, loss of hours at work, medical problems, etc. Also, the trustee will be looking at your budget in your petition just to make sure that you do not have excess income that would allow you to re-pay your bills through a Chapter 13 repayment plan).
15. Are you involved in any pending lawsuits, or do you have the right to sue anybody (for example, personal injury or worker's compensation claims)?
16. If you have medical bills in your petition, are these bills the result of an accident, or just related to general illness?
17. Do you expect to receive a large tax refund, or have you received a tax refund from the I.R.S. in excess of \$5,000 in the past few months? (If so, please discuss this with your attorney prior to the hearing.)

Typically, the only creditors that ever attend these hearings are those creditors who have collateral securing the debt (such as a car, furniture or a mortgage). They will either make arrangements for the surrender of the collateral, or, if you are reaffirming the debt, they will ask you to sign a reaffirmation agreement. They may ask if the collateral securing the debt with them is insured and if it is in good, fair or poor condition. If it's a car or home loan, they will usually ask to see any automobile or homeowner's insurance proof in the hallway after the hearing. Therefore, *if you are reaffirming a car or mortgage loan, be sure to bring an automobile insurance card and/or proof of homeowner insurance, to the meeting room with you.*

VERY IMPORTANT: You must complete your Pre-Discharge Financial Education Course online if you have not already done so. The course must be completed within 45 days after the meeting of the creditors, but the sooner you complete the course, the better. In fact, we encourage you to complete the course before your meeting. You will find the information regarding instructions on taking the course included inside the burgundy folder you received. *The course is required to receive a discharge. If the course is not completed the case must be reopened and the certificate filed at your expense!*

To complete your course, go to the following website:

www.StartFreshToday.com

- Click the orange box that says: "CONSUMERS, Click Here to Begin"
- On the next page, click the green box that says "I HAVE FILED, Take Debtor Education Course"
- On the next page, choose either the "Online" or "Telephonic" course.
- If you have not already created an account, you must create one. However, you may use the username and password you created when you did your pre-filing budgeting course.
- When asked if you have an attorney, click yes and enter code **BC1998** (Apply Code). **This allows you to bypass the fee.**

If you have any trouble or questions please feel free to contact Cristina Flores at 678-792-2025. After completion of the course you may also contact her to confirm receipt of the certificate.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns about this meeting. The meeting is very brief and informal, and should not cause you any worry. This is generally the only hearing you will need to attend, and you should receive your Discharge from the Court in about 60 days after the

meeting. Make sure to keep your Discharge in a safe place, as this is your legal proof that your debts have been eliminated.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Cahn

Perrotta, Cahn & Prieto, P.C.