

- **Adversary proceeding** – A lawsuit arising in or related to a bankruptcy case that is commenced by filing a complaint with the court.
- **Assume** – An agreement to continue performing duties under a contract or lease.
- **Automatic stay** – An injunction that automatically stops lawsuits, foreclosure, garnishments, and all collection activity against the debtor the moment a bankruptcy petition is filed.
- **Bankruptcy** – A legal procedure for dealing with debt problems of individuals and businesses; specifically, a case filed under one of the chapters of title 11 of the United States Code (the Bankruptcy Code).
- **Bankruptcy Code** – The informal name for title 11 of the United States Code (11 U.S.C. § 101 1330), the federal bankruptcy law.
- **Bankruptcy court** – The bankruptcy judges in regular active service in each district; a unit of the district court.
- **Bankruptcy estate** – All legal or equitable interests of the debtor in property at the time of the bankruptcy filing. (The estate includes all property in which the debtor has an interest, even if it is owned or held by another person.)
- **Bankruptcy judge** – A judicial officer of the United States district court who is the court official with decisionmaking power over federal bankruptcy cases.
- **Bankruptcy petition** – The document filed by the debtor (in a voluntary case) or by creditors (in an involuntary case) by which opens the bankruptcy case. (There are official forms for bankruptcy petitions)
- **Chapter 7** – The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code providing for liquidation, i.e., the sale of a debtor's nonexempt property and the distribution of the proceeds to creditors.
- **Chapter 9** – The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code providing for reorganization of municipalities (which includes cities and towns, as well as villages, counties, taxing districts, municipal utilities, and school districts).
- **Chapter 11** – The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code providing (generally) for reorganization, usually involving a corporation or partnership. (A chapter 11 debtor usually proposes a plan of reorganization to keep its business alive and pay creditors over time. People in business or individuals can also seek relief in chapter 11.)

- **Chapter 12** – The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code providing for adjustment of debts of a family farmer, or a family fisherman as those terms are defined in the Bankruptcy Code.
- **Chapter 13** – The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code providing for adjustment of debts of an individual with regular income. (Chapter 13 allows a debtor to keep property and pay debts over time, usually three to five years.)
- **Chapter 13 trustee** – A person appointed to administer a chapter 13 case. (A chapter 13 trustee's responsibilities are similar to those of a chapter 7 trustee; however, a chapter 13 trustee has the additional responsibilities of overseeing the debtor's plan, receiving payments from debtors, and disbursing plan payments to creditors.)
- **Chapter 15** – The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code dealing with cases of crossborder insolvency.
- **Claim** – A creditor's assertion of a right to payment from the debtor or the debtor's property.
- **Complaint** – The first or initiatory document in a lawsuit that notifies the court and the defendant of the grounds claimed by the plaintiff for an award of money or other relief against the defendant.
- **Confirmation Bankruptcy** – judge's approval of a plan of reorganization or liquidation in chapter 11, or payment plan in chapter 12 or 13.
- **Consumer bankruptcy** – A bankruptcy case filed to reduce or eliminate debts that are primarily consumer debts.
- **Consumer debts** – Debts incurred for personal, as opposed to business, needs.
- **Contested matter** – Those matters, other than objections to claims, that are disputed but are not within the definition of adversary proceeding contained in Rule 7001.
- **Contingent claim** – A claim that may be owed by the debtor under certain circumstances, for example, where the debtor is a cosigner on another person's loan and that person fails to pay.
- **Creditor** – One to whom the debtor owes money or who claims to be owed money by the debtor.
- **Credit counseling** – Generally refers to two events in individual bankruptcy cases: (1) the individual or group briefing from a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency that individual debtors must attend prior to filing under any chapter of the Bankruptcy Code; and (2) the instructional course in personal financial management in chapters 7 and 13 that an individual debtor must complete before a discharge is entered. There are exceptions to both requirements

for certain categories of debtors, exigent circumstances, or if the U.S. trustee or bankruptcy administrator have determined that there are insufficient approved credit counseling agencies available to provide the necessary counseling.

- **Creditors' meeting** – see 341 meeting
- **Current monthly income** – The average monthly income received by the debtor over the six calendar months before commencement of the bankruptcy case, including regular contributions to household expenses from nondebtors and income from the debtor's spouse if the petition is a joint petition, but not including social security income and certain other payments made because the debtor is the victim of certain crimes. 11 U.S.C. § 101(10A).