

## PREPARING FOR A JUDGMENT DEBTOR HEARING

If you lose a small claims case and are ordered to pay money to the winning side, you become a **judgment debtor**. The **judgment creditor** is the winning party you owe money to (your landlord).

This guide outlines the processes you can expect to occur **if you are a judgment debtor**, and the judgment creditor tries to enforce judgment against you due to your failure to pay.

### If a judgment is entered against you, complete the Judgment Debtor Statement of Assets within 30 DAYS

If the court decided you owe some amount of money to the Plaintiff (your landlord), then you must complete the Judgment Debtor Statement of Assets ([Form SC-133](#)) within **30 days after** the clerk mailed the Notice of Entry of the Judgment ([SC-200/SC-130](#))

- This Judgment Debtor Statement of Assets form discloses information about your assets – including where you work, where you bank, and any property you may own.
- Review a sample Judgment Debtor Statement of Assets [here](#)

Fill out the form and send it directly to the PLAINTIFF (you do **not** need to file this with the court)

### If you do not complete the Judgment Debtor Statement of Assets (SC-133), the Judgment Creditor may request you appear at Judgment Debtor Hearing

<p>How to know if you have been subpoenaed</p>	<p>The judgment creditor may subpoena you using a (<a href="#">Form SC-134</a>). The form will instruct you to appear in court on a certain date and may request that you bring financial information to the hearing.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> You <b>must</b> appear at your judgment debtor hearing. If you fail to appear, the judgment creditor can request the judge to issue a <b>bench warrant</b> against you. If there is a bench warrant against you, law enforcement can arrest you for not appearing at your hearing or for disobeying your subpoena. Find more details <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Attend the Judgment Debtor Hearing</p>	<p>At this hearing, the judgment creditor can ask you questions as a means of finding ways to collect judgment from you. They may ask questions about where you work, where you bank, and any property you may own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review a list of sample questions you may be asked <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> <p>Judgment Debtor Examinations must be conducted either before the judicial officer presiding, or a licensed attorney.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> “Judgment Debtor Hearing” and “Judgment Debtor Examination” and “Examination of Judgment Debtor” all mean the same thing and can be used to refer to this process.</p>

### Additional resources:

Review Form [SC-200-INFO](#) *What to Do After the Court Decides Your Small Claim Case* for more information on post judgment procedure and payment options

LA DCBA Video on the Judgment Debtor Hearing – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhyJ1s65kxA>

Judicial Council of California – Small Claims Forms: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/1017.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en>