SELF HELP GUIDE



Collecting a Small Claims Judgment

THIS GUIDE IS NOT INTENDED TO BE LEGAL ADVICE. This guide is for general purposes only. Contact LAFLA at (800) 399-4529 if you would like to complete an intake for legal advice/services. You can also find more information for tenants in small claims court at: https://lafla.org/get-help/tenant-small-claims/

THIS IS AN INTERACTIVE DOCUMENT. All <u>blue</u>, <u>underlined</u> texts are hyperlinks to court forms, sample forms, and additional resources/materials where you can learn more.

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The Small Claims Court Decision

After your hearing, the court will mail you a copy of its decision. You will receive a <u>Notice of Entry of Judgment (Form SC-130)</u> notifying if you won or lost the case.

Judgment = the court's decision if you won or lost the case.

- <u>If you lost</u>, the court decided the person you sued does not owe you any money. You cannot appeal. You cannot sue about this issue again. The decision is final.
- If you won, the court decided the person you sued owes you money. You become the **Judgment Creditor** and the person/entity you sued (i.e., your landlord) becomes the **Judgment Debtor**. In a case where you, the tenant, sued a landlord for violation of your tenants' rights, you become the Judgment Creditor and the landlord becomes the Judgment Debtor.

<u>Judgment Debtor's Options to Challenge the Judgment</u>

If you won the case, you must wait 30 days from the date the court mailed its decision for it to become final. During this 30-day period, the person/entity that the judgment was entered against may challenge the court's decision by 1) appealing the decision; or 2) requesting to vacate/cancel the decision.

	OPTIONS TO CHALLENGE THE COURT JUDGMENT
Appeal the	If you and the Judgment Debtor were both present at the small claims hearing, the Judgment Debtor can file an appeal. The Judgment Debtor can request an appeal by filing Form SC-140 with the court. You will receive a copy of the Notice of Appeal in the mail with a hearing date. You MUST attend the hearing.
Decision	The appeal hearing is a "de novo" hearing. This means you will present your case again in front of a new judge. In a small claims appeal, you will present your case all over again as if the first small claims hearing never happened. Bring all your case evidence — including witnesses — to the hearing. You may bring new/additional evidence if you have any. You can be represented by an attorney in the small claims appeal hearing.
	For more information on appeals, read the LA County DCBA's FAQ page on small claims appeals <u>here.</u>
Cancel the	If the Judgment Debtor did not come to the small claims hearing, the Judgment Debtor can request the court "cancel" the judgment. The Judgment Debtor request the judgment be cancelled be filing a Form SC-135 . The court will send you a copy of the notice of the request to vacate in the mail with a hearing date. You MUST attend the hearing.
Decision	At the hearing, the Judgment Debtor will need to show "good cause" for why they weren't at the first hearing. To show good cause, they must present to the court a valid reason for why they missed the court date such as a serious emergency or there was an error in obtaining the court forms.
	If the judge grants the motion to vacate, the judge will then hold a new hearing on the facts of the case. The judge may schedule a new court date, or the judge may decide to hear the case immediately after granting the motion. Therefore, when you go to the hearing, come ready to present your case again with all evidence/witnesses.
	For more information on the motion to vacate, read the LA County DBA's FAQ page <u>here</u>

Judgment Debtor's Options to Voluntarily Pay the Judgment

If the Judgment Debtor does not choose to challenge the court's decision, then they can make arrangements to pay the judgment. The Judgment Debtor can decide to pay at any time in full or in installments:

OPTIONS TO PAY JUDGMENT		
	If a judgment debtor cannot pay the entire judgment all at once, they can offer to make installment payments until the judgment is paid in full plus interest. You can informally reach an agreement for installment payments, or the Judgment Debtor can request the court approve a payment plan.	
Pay in Installments	The Judgment Debtor can request a payment plan through the court by filing Form SC-220. If you do not respond, the judge will order the payment plan proposed by the Judgment Debtor in the SC-220.	
	To respond, file a <u>Response to Request to Make Payments</u> (Form SC-221) within 10 days of receiving the Judgment Debtor's request to make payments. Let the court know why you disagree with the Judgment Debtor's request. If the court grants permission for the debtor to make payments, you cannot take any other steps to collect the money as long as the payments are made on time. Review this sample of a <u>completed SC-221 Form.</u>	
Pay in full	Pay via the court: The Judgment Debtor may make their payment to you through the court. If the Judgment Debtors pays via the court, the court will mail you a notice <u>Request to Pay Judgment to Court</u> (Form SC-145). The bottom portion of Form SC-145 provides instructions for how to pick up the money from the court or request the court mail the funds to you.	
	Pay you (the Judgment Creditor) directly: The Judgment Debtor can pay you directly through any method you agree to including cash, check, cash apps, money transfer, or credit card. Once the Judgment Debtor pays you the full judgment amount, you must file an <i>Acknowledgement of Satisfaction of Judgment</i> (Form SC-290) with the court within 14 days of receiving payment. This form tells the court that the Judgment Creditor is not obligated to pay your any more money because the judgment is fully paid. Review Sample SC-290 Form.	

Collecting the Judgment

If the Judgment Debtor does not challenge the judgment, agree to an installment plan, or pay the judgment within 30 days, you can take steps to collect the judgment from the Judgment Debtor.

You will not automatically be paid the judgment amount. You must take steps to collect the money from the Judgment Debtor if they do not pay you voluntarily

This guide will provide you with tools to understand:

- 1) How to locate/identify the Judgment Debtor and their assets; and
- 2) How to use the information you learn about the Judgment Debtor to collect the judgment through actions such as bank levies, garnishments, or property liens.

Before going through formal court processes, you can write the Judgment Debtor a letter with a copy of the court order, reminding him or her the amount of money owed (including any court costs and fees) and that you can take more serious action.

• **Tip:** Use the California Court's <u>Post-Judgment Letter Generator</u> to help you write a formal letter demanding payment of your judgment.

To learn more about the process to collect a small claims judgment, watch LA DCBA's Small Claims Advisor's webinar "Collecting a Small Claims Judgment" video here.

Phase 1: Locate the Judgment Debtor and the Judgment Debtor's Assets

If you do not know where the Judgment Debtor works, banks, or owns property, you may first need to learn this information by requesting a Judgment Debtor's Statement of Assets or requesting the Judgment Debtor appear in court for a Judgment Debtor Exam.

The Judgment Debtor's Statement of Assets

The Judgment Debtor is required to submit to you a Judgment Debtor's Statement of Assets (SC-133). The SC-133 asks the Judgment Debtor about their work/income, property they own (including houses and cars), and bank account information. The Judgment Debtor is required to send this form to you within 30 days of the of the court's decision. If the Judgment Debtor provides you with this document and it includes enough information for you move forward with a lien, levy, or garnishment skip to Page 5 of this guide.

If the information on the Judgment Debtor Statement of Assets is incomplete or you did not receive one at all you can request a court hearing called a Judgment Debtor Hearing.

The Judgment Debtor Hearing

You can request the court schedule a Judgment Debtor Hearing to help you collect the judgment from the Judgment Debtor. In this hearing, the Judgment Debtor will be required to come to court on a specific date and you will have the opportunity to question them about their income and assets. For more information the Judgment Debtor Hearing, review Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs, <u>Judgment Debtor Hearing</u> FAQ here

To request a Judgment Debtor Hearing:

- 1. Complete Form SC-134- <u>Order to Produce Statement of Assets and to Appear for Examination</u>
 <u>(Form SC-134)</u> This form tells the Judgment Debtor to come to court to answer questions about their assets <u>and</u> to bring a completed <u>(Form SC-133)- Debtor's Statement of Assets</u>. Review SC-134 Sample Form.
- 2. File Form SC-134 with the clerk at the court where your case was heard and pay the \$60 filing fee (or present a fee waiver, FW-001). When the clerk accepts the filing, they will assign you a hearing date.
- 3. Serve the documents on the Judgment Debtor so they have proper notice of the hearing.
- 4. If you want a Judgment Debtor to bring specific documents to the hearing such as a bank statement or real estate deed, you can also file <u>Small Claims Subpoena and Declaration</u> (Form SC-107). The filing cost for this form is \$40 or present a fee waiver. Review SC-107 sample form, <u>here</u>.

Prepare for the Judgment Debtor Hearing

The hearing is your opportunity to gather as much information as you can about the Judgment Debtor's financial situation and their ability to pay the judgment. The goal of the hearing is to learn as much as possible about the Judgment debtor's assets, income, and ability to pay the judgment. Some examples of questions you may want to ask are:

- Do you have a checking or savings account at a bank? If so, what's the name of the bank or credit union? What is the branch address? What are the account numbers: and What is the present balances for each account?
- Do you own any real estate? Do you own the home you live in? If so, what kind of home is it? How much is it worth and how much do you owe on it?
- Where do you work? How much does your employer pay you? How often are you paid?

To help you prepare for the hearing:

- Review this <u>questionnaire</u> which provides a list of questions you can ask at a Judgment Debtor hearing.
- Review an additional list of questions posted by the California Court's Self-Help website.

Attend the Judgment Debtor Hearing

You and the Judgment Debtor must come to court for the Judgment Debtor Hearing. At the hearing, the Judgment Debtor must answer questions under oath about their assets, bank statements, sources of income, and cash. Bring writing utensils and paper to take notes of the testimony from the Judgment Debtor. The hearing is also an opportunity for the you to try to set up a payment plan with the Judgment Debtor

Use the information you learn in this hearing to collect your judgment using any of the methods discussed below. If you still need more information from the Judgment Debtor, you can request a Judgment Debtor Examination again in 120 days.

If the Judgment Debtor does not show up at the hearing, there are two options:

- 1) The judge may continue the hearing meaning they will schedule a new hearing date that you must attend.
- 2) You can ask the judge to issue a bench warrant which orders the Judgment Debtor to contact the court to schedule a new hearing or the bench warrant will not be recalled by the court.¹ If the judge

¹ California Code of Civil Procedure Section 491.160 (a)(1)(B)

issues a bench warrant, you must pay the Sheriff a \$50-\$120 fee to issue the bench warrant for the individual's arrest. The judgment debtor may be found in civil contempt for disobeying a court order.

Note- Exempt Assets and "Collection Proof" Debtors

Not all property is available for collection. There are some types of assets and property that cannot be collected to pay a judgment. These assets are considered "exempt." Form EJ-155 provides a list of exemptions from the enforcement of judgment, such as welfare payments, tax returns, and assets outside of California.

Phase 2: Enforce the Judgment based on what you learned about the Judgment Debtor's Assets

Once you have ascertained what property/assets the Judgment Debtor has, then you can move forward with collecting the judgment. There are several ways you can enforce a judgment and we will discuss some of the most common types in this guide, including: Bank Levy, Wage Garnishment, and Liens.

Bank Levy	Take money out of the judgment debtor's checking or
Darik Levy	, , , ,
	savings account to pay the judgment
Wage Garnishment	Withhold a portion of the judgment debtor's wages to
	pay the judgment
Property Lien	Record a claim against the judgment debtor's property
	to pay the judgment

The following sections will talk about each of the enforcement options in more detail and discuss the process for each. Please note that this guide provides a general overview of your options and is not a substitute for individualized legal advice from an attorney.

Bank Levy

What is a bank levy?

A bank levy is a request to take money out of the Judgment Debtor's bank account to pay the judgment. If you know where the Judgment Debtor banks, you can collect money from their bank account, credit union, savings association, or other financial institution.

How much can be levied?

There are rules for how much money and what types of funds can be taken from a person's bank account. State law prohibits an individual's bank account from being levied below \$2,080.² Additionally, certain funds are protected from levy such as funds deposited into a person's bank account from social security or other government assistance programs.

For more information on exempt assets, review Sacramento Law Library – <u>Exemption from the Enforcement</u> of Judgment

² This minimum amount that must be left in account is adjusted annually based on the Minimum Basic Standard of Care for a Family of 4 located in Cal. Dept. of Social Services Region 1. The minimum amount under this metric as of November 2023 is \$2,080. This minimum is subject to change semiannually. See Cal. Civ. Proc. Section 704.220 for more information.

How to request and obtain a bank levy:

There are four key steps to obtain a bank levy: 1) Complete and file court forms; 2) Take court approve forms to the levying officer; 3) Holding & Release of the funds. Each step is outlined in more detail below:

Complete & File Court Forms	Complete the Writ of Execution (Form EJ-130). This form is the official document from the court that gives the Sheriff the authority to collect the money owed to you. Review a sample EJ-130 here at pg. 129 Make three copies of this form and file it at the court clerk's office. Pay the \$25 fee (or bring a complete Fee Waiver, FW-001). This writ is valid for 180 days (6 months) from the date it is issued by the court clerk.
Take the Writ and Instructions to the Levying Officer	Once the EJ-130 is approved by the court clerk, take the documents to Sherrif (aka: the levying officer) to execute the writ. In addition to the court approved EJ-130, you must complete the Sherriff's Instructions Sheet. Instructions to obtain a bank levy via the Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department is available this here . The Los Angeles County Sherriff Bank Levy Instructions Form is available here . The instructions to the Sherriff specify the name of the debtor whose account is to be garnished as well as the name and address of the branch of the financial institution where the debtor's account is located. List the address of the bank to collect the judgment. Some banks service at any of their branch offices but some require levies to be served at a designated location. • Look up the bank here to find if there's a central service location for the bank you want to serve. If the bank is not listed, any branch of the bank can be served.
Holding & Release of Funds	 The Sherriff will take the levy to the Judgment Debtor's bank and request the funds to satisfy the judgment. Once the bank receives the writ of execution and notice of levy, it will determine that the funds requested from the Judgment Debtor's account are not exempt from collection. If the funds are exempt, the bank will not release the funds to the Sherriff. Even if the bank determines the Judgment Debtor's funds are not exempt, the Judgment Debtor may file a Claim of Exemption within 10 days of receiving notice of the bank levy claiming that their funds are exempt from collection. If you disagree with the Judgment Debtor's claim of exemption, you can oppose the claim and attend a court hearing. If the Judgment Debtor doesn't respond to the Notice of Levy and the funds are not exempt from collection, then the sheriff will release the funds to you.

Additional Bank Levy Resources

For more instructional guides on obtaining a bank levy, review the following resources/guides:

- Sacramento Law Library, Bank Levy Instructional Guide
- California Court's Self-Help Guide, Collect Money from a Bank Account

Note – Levying funds from the Judgment Debtor's Spouse's Bank Account

California law allows a judgment creditor to collect money from the bank account in the name of a Judgment Debtor's spouse even when the debtor's name is not on the account.³ To do this, the Judgment Creditor must provide a declaration under oath to the levying officer, called a <u>Spousal Affidavit</u> (Form MC-030), stating that the person whose account is to be levied is married to the judgment debtor.

Wage/Rent Income Garnishment

What is wage garnishment?

Wage garnishment is when a percentage of income from the Judgment Debtor's paycheck is paid to the Judgment Creditor until the judgment is paid in full.

How much of a Judgment Debtor's wages can be garnished?

The Judgment Creditor can ask the sheriff to collect up to 25% of the debtor's total wages from each paycheck until the judgment is paid in full. The 25% limit applies to the total for all garnishments, so if another garnishment is already in place, there may not be any funds available for the Judgment Creditor to collect until the other creditors are paid in full. Additionally, the Judgment Creditor cannot garnish wages of a self-employed debtor. Income from government assistance programs cannot be garnished.

For more information on how much of a debtor's wages can be garnished review Sacramento Law Library, Exemption from the Enforcement of Judgment and review Cal. Civ. Procedure Section 704.070.

What are the steps to garnish wages?

There are four key steps to garnish a Judgment Debtor's wages are: 1) complete and file court forms; 2) take court approve forms to the levying office; 3) Allow the Judgment Debtor to Respond and 4) Release the funds. Each step is outlined in more detail below:

Complete &	Complete the <u>Writ of Execution</u> (Form EJ-130). This form is the official document from the court that gives the Sheriff the authority to collect the money owed to you. Review a sample EJ-130 here at pg. 129
File Court	
Forms	Make three copies of this form and file it at the court clerk's office. Pay the \$25 fee (or complete a fee waiver, FW-001). This writ is valid for 180 days (6 months) from the date it is issued by the court clerk.
	Once the EJ-130 is approved by the court clerk, take the documents to Sherrif (aka: the
	levying officer) to <i>execute</i> the writ.
Take the Writ	
and	In addition to the court approved EJ-130, you must complete one of the following forms to
Instructions to	take to the Sherriff:
the Levying	 Application for Earnings Withholding Order (Wage Garnishment), WG-001, OR
Officer	 Confidential Statement of Judgment Debtor's Social Security Number, WG-035
	(Use this form only if you know the Judgment Debtor's Social Security Number)
	The Sherriff will serve the documents on the Judgment Debtor's employer. Within 15 days,
	the employer must send the Sheriff an Employer's Return (Form WG-005). This will say if

³ See Cal. Code of Civil Procedure Section 700.160(a) and 700.160(c) for more information.

	the employee still works there, if the money can be garnished, or if some/all of the money is exempt. If the money can be garnished, the employer will send the funds to the Sheriff.
Judgment Debtor Opportunity to Respond	After receiving notice of the wage garnishment, the Judgment Debtor can claim their assets are exempt from collection by completing the Notice of Filing of Claim of Exemption (Form WG-008). If the judgment debtor files a claim of exemption and you disagree, you must respond within 10 days by filing the following forms with the court: • Notice of Opposition to Claim of Exemption (Form WG-009) • Notice of Hearing on Claim of Judgment (Form WG-010) The Judgment Debtor must be personally served with the Notice of Opposition and the Notice of Hearing at least 21 days before the scheduled claim of exemption hearing.
Receiving the Funds	If the Judgment Debtor does not file a claim of exemption, the sheriff will send you any money they get from the employer. The sheriff will continue to collect the money until the judgment is paid in full. If the Judgment Debtor changes jobs, you will need to go through the same process with their new job.

Additional Wage Garnishment Resources

For more instructional guides on obtaining a wage garnishment, review the following resources/guides:

- Sacramento Law Library, Wage Garnishment Instructional Guide
- California Court's Self-Help Guide, Collect Money from Someone's Pay

Rental Income Garnishment

If the Judgment Debtor owns rental property (such as a house or condo), you may garnish the rents paid by the current tenants. The Judgment Creditor has two methods available to garnish the rents: A rental income garnishment or an assignment order for rents.

- 1) A rental income garnishment works similar to wage garnishment. The Judgment Creditor can request that the sheriff retain a portion of the rent collected on the Judgment Debtor's property in order to pay the judgment. This process follows the wage garnishment steps discussed above. The key difference is that the Sheriff will then serve the Judgment Debtor's tenant with the rent income garnishment, instead of the judgment debtor's employer. The tenant's rent is then paid to the Sheriff and the Sheriff then disperses the funds to the Judgment Creditor
- 2) An assignment order for rents requires explicit permission from the courts to order a tenant's rent to be paid directly to the Judgment Creditor and not the landlord to satisfy the court judgment. Fill out <u>Request for Court Order and Answer (Form SC-105)</u> and explain that because the landlord owes you a judgment, you are asking the court for that rental income to go to you instead.

For more information on special cases for collecting where the Judgment Debtor is a landlord, see LA DCBA video "Small Claims Court: Collecting a Judgment" starting at 19:00: https://youtu.be/UGRF4GiyNOc?si=oIHsDXQkyCtXTaWY&t=1120

Property, Business and Judgment Liens

What is a lien?

A lien is an official claim or charge against a property for a payment of debt. A lien is placed on any property owned by the Judgment Debtor. Once a lien is placed on an asset, you will be paid the amount owed if 1) the property is ever sold or refinanced.

How to Obtain a Property Lien

To place a lien on a property, you must obtain an Abstract of Judgment from the court and then formally record the Abstract of Judgment with the county where the property is located. To obtain a lien, there is a two-part process:

- 1. Fill out <u>Abstract of Judgment (Form EJ-001)</u> and file it with the court clerk. This court identifies the Judgment Debtor and chow much they owe. The clerk will approve and stamp the Abstract of Judgment (aka: "certify" the document). Keep a copy of this for your records and to use to obtain a lien. Here is a Sample EJ-001 Form
- 2. Take the certified abstract of judgment to the Recorder's Office in the county where the judgment debtor's property/real estate is located. If the properties are all in the same county, you only need to record one Abstract of Judgment in that county. If the properties are in different counties, you need to record an Abstract of Judgment in each county where the Judgment Debtor owns property.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECORDER INFORMATION

To place a lien on property located in **Los Angeles County,** take the documents to the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office. The County Records office for in person visits is located at:

12400 East Imperial Highway, Room 1002

Norwalk, CA 90650

Email: recorder@rrcc.lacounty.gov

Recording: (562) 462-2137 or 800-201-8999

Lien info page: https://www.lavote.gov/home/recorder/property-document-recording/forms/liens

Fees page: https://www.lavote.gov/home/recorder/property-document-recording/fees

Contact information/methods: <a href="https://www.lavote.gov/contact-us/conta

ALL OTHER COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA

Contact information for all California Recorders Offices' in each county can be found here

Foreclosing on a Property Lien

You can investigate "foreclosing" on the judgment lien. This means that you force the Judgment Debtor to sell the property and pay you with that money. This works when there is enough equity in the property to pay all the liens (including mortgage) plus the foreclosure costs and the owner isn't eligible for a homestead exemption. Visit the law library or see an attorney for assistance.

Business Lien

If the Judgment Debtor is a corporation/business, you can record a business lien with the California Secretary of State. If you place a lien on a business entity, you may receive payment if the entity is ever sold. The business lien is valid for five years.

To request a business lien, complete the <u>Notice of Judgment Lien (Form JL1)</u> (which costs \$5 and you must make an account with the CA SoS office) and the <u>Proof of Service by Mail</u> (Form SC-112A)

 Chapter 12 of the <u>CA SoS Help Guide BizFile Online Public Portal</u> provides a guide on how to complete Form JL1

Judgment Lien

If the Judgment Debtor sued someone and recovers money as a part of the lawsuit, you can place a lien on the money the Judgment Debtor collects from any judgment owed to the them. To request a judgment lien, file a <u>Notice of Lien</u> (Form EJ-185) with the court clerk in the lawsuit to place the lien on a judgment.

Additional Topics

Renewing the Judgment

A small claims judgment is valid for **10 years**. If you are not paid the full judgment amount plus interest in that 10-year period, you can file a renewal before the 10 years expire to request the judgment be extended for an additional 10 years.⁴ You may only file for renewal once.

To renew a judgment:

- File <u>Application for and Renewal of Judgment (Form EJ-190)</u> and <u>Notice of Renewal of Judgment (Form EJ-195)</u> with the court clerk. The filing fee \$45 or bring a completed Fee Waiver if you do not already have one on file in the case..
 - o Review <u>EJ-190 Sample Form</u> and <u>EJ-195 Sample Form</u>
- For more information on how long your judgment lasts and how to renew your judgment, access the LA DCBA (small claims advisor) website here and/or review the California Court's Guide on how to Renew a Judgment here.

Costs Associated with Collecting Judgments

The filing fees and costs associated with enforcing a judgment can be significant. Keep a detailed record of receipts paid to the court clerk or other places you had to pay money as you attempt to collect the judgment from the Judgment Debtor.

You can request to have the costs associated with attempting to collect the judgment added to the amount of money the judgment debtor owes you.

- 1. File a <u>Memorandum of Costs After Judgment</u> (Form MC-012). Review this <u>guide</u> on how to complete the form.
 - You can only add costs from the past two years and what you paid the court, government agency (such as sheriff's office) or process server.
 - Fill out the form after you have added all costs associated with collecting judgment.

You can also request interest that accrues while the judgment is unpaid. Use this <u>judgment calculator</u> or this form to calculate interest and the amount owed on a judgment

Fee Waivers:

You may be exempt from paying court filing fees if you qualify for a fee waiver. To apply for a fee waiver: fill out <u>Request to Waive Court Fees</u> (Form FW-001). Review this <u>guide</u> for assistance completing the FW-001 form.

If your fee waiver is approved, you will receive a FW-003, *Order on Request to Waive Court Fees*, from the court. Keep a copy of this for your records. You can use the FW-003 at the Sheriff's Department to have fees for services of process waived as well.

⁴ California Code of Civil Procedure Section 683.120 (b)

ADDITIONAL SMALL CLAIMS RESOURCES

Los Angeles Small Claims Advisor:

- Homepage: https://dcba.lacounty.gov/small-claims/
- Sample form library: https://dcba.lacounty.gov/smallclaims-sampleforms/
- Video library: https://dcba.lacounty.gov/smallclaimsshortvideos/

California Courts Self Help Guide – After Trial: https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/small-claims/after-trial California Courts Self Help Guide Index: https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/small-claims-index

LAFLA Renters Small Claims Project Pro-Per Library: https://lafla.org/get-help/tenant-small-claims/

Sacramento Law Library, Enforcement of Judgments: https://saclaw.org/resource_library/enforcement-of-judgments/