

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5592**

58th Legislature  
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 21, 2003  
YEAS 40 NAYS 4

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 14, 2003  
YEAS 93 NAYS 0

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr.,  
Secretary of the Senate of the  
State of Washington, do hereby  
certify that the attached is  
**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5592** as  
passed by the Senate and the House  
of Representatives on the dates  
hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5592**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Mulliken, Eide, Johnson, Haugen, Sheahan and McCaslin)

READ FIRST TIME 03/03/03.

1            AN ACT Relating to garnishments; amending RCW 6.27.020, 6.27.070,  
2 6.27.100, 6.27.130, 6.27.140, 6.27.160, 6.27.190, 6.27.200, 6.27.250,  
3 6.27.265, 6.27.320, 6.27.340, 6.27.350, 3.62.060, 6.27.010, and  
4 6.27.060; and reenacting and amending RCW 6.27.040.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            **Sec. 1.** RCW 6.27.020 and 1987 c 442 s 1002 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8            (1) The clerks of the superior courts and district courts of this  
9 state may issue writs of garnishment returnable to their respective  
10 courts for the benefit of a judgment creditor who has a judgment wholly  
11 or partially unsatisfied in the court from which the garnishment is  
12 sought.

13            (2) Writs of garnishment may be issued in district court with like  
14 effect by the attorney of record for the judgment creditor, and the  
15 form of writ shall be substantially the same as when issued by the  
16 court except that it shall be subscribed only by the signature of such  
17 attorney.

18            (3) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 6.27.040 and 6.27.330, the  
19 superior courts and district courts of this state may issue prejudgment

1 writs of garnishment to a plaintiff at the time of commencement of an  
2 action or at any time afterward, subject to the requirements of chapter  
3 6.26 RCW.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 6.27.040 and 1987 c 442 s 1004 and 1987 c 202 s 134  
5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The state of Washington, all counties, cities, towns, school  
7 districts and other municipal corporations shall be subject to  
8 garnishment after judgment has been entered in the principal action,  
9 but not before, in the superior and district courts, in the same manner  
10 and with the same effect, as provided in the case of other garnishees.

11 (2) The venue of any such garnishment proceeding shall be the same  
12 as for the original action, and the writ shall be issued by the clerk  
13 of the court having jurisdiction of such original action or by the  
14 attorney of record for the judgment creditor in district court.

15 (3) The writ of garnishment shall be served (~~in the same manner~~  
16 ~~and~~) upon the same officer as is required for service of summons upon  
17 the commencement of a civil action against the state, county, city,  
18 town, school district, or other municipal corporation, as the case may  
19 be.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 6.27.070 and 1987 c 442 s 1007 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) When application for a writ of garnishment is made by a  
23 judgment creditor and the requirements of RCW 6.27.060 have been  
24 complied with, the clerk shall docket the case in the names of the  
25 judgment creditor as plaintiff, the judgment debtor as defendant, and  
26 the garnishee as garnishee defendant, and shall immediately issue and  
27 deliver a writ of garnishment to the judgment creditor in the form  
28 prescribed in RCW 6.27.100, directed to the garnishee, commanding the  
29 garnishee to answer said writ on forms served with the writ and  
30 complying with RCW 6.27.190 within twenty days after the service of the  
31 writ upon the garnishee. The clerk shall likewise docket the case when  
32 a writ of garnishment issued by the attorney of record of a judgment  
33 creditor is filed. Whether a writ is issued by the clerk or an  
34 attorney, the clerk shall bear no responsibility for errors contained  
35 in the writ.

1       (2) The writ of garnishment shall be dated and attested as in the  
2 form prescribed in RCW 6.27.100. The name and office address of the  
3 plaintiff's attorney shall be indorsed thereon or, in case the  
4 plaintiff has no attorney, the name and address of the plaintiff shall  
5 be indorsed thereon. The address of the clerk's office shall appear at  
6 the bottom of the writ.

7       **Sec. 4.** RCW 6.27.100 and 2000 c 72 s 3 are each amended to read as  
8 follows:

9       (1) The writ shall be substantially in the following form(~~(+  
10 PROVIDED, That))~~), but if the writ is issued under a court order or  
11 judgment for child support, the following statement shall appear  
12 conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment  
13 or court order for child support"(~~(+ AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That))~~); and  
14 if the garnishment is for a continuing lien, the form shall be modified  
15 as provided in RCW 6.27.340(~~(+ AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That))~~); and if  
16 the writ is not directed to an employer for the purpose of garnishing  
17 a defendant's earnings, the paragraph relating to the earnings  
18 exemption may be omitted and the paragraph relating to the deduction of  
19 processing fees may be omitted; and if the writ is issued by an  
20 attorney, the writ shall be revised as indicated in subsection (2) of  
21 this section:

22                                   "IN THE ..... COURT

23                                   OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR

24                                   THE COUNTY OF .....

25                                   .....,

26                                   Plaintiff,                                   No. ....

27                                   vs.

28                                   .....,

28                                   WRIT OF  
29                                   GARNISHMENT

29                                   Defendant

30                                   .....,

31                                   Garnishee

32                                   THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: .....

33                                   Garnishee

34                                   AND TO: .....

35                                   Defendant

1                   The above-named plaintiff has applied for a writ of  
2 garnishment against you, claiming that the above-named  
3 defendant is indebted to plaintiff and that the amount to be  
4 held to satisfy that indebtedness is \$ . . . . ., consisting of:

|    |   |        |
|----|---|--------|
| 5  | Balance on Judgment or Amount of Claim    | \$.... |
| 6  | Interest under Judgment from .... to .... | \$.... |
| 7  | Taxable Costs and Attorneys' Fees         | \$.... |
| 8  | Estimated Garnishment Costs:              |        |
| 9  | Filing Fee                                | \$.... |
| 10 | Service and Affidavit Fees                | \$.... |
| 11 | Postage and Costs of Certified Mail       | \$.... |
| 12 | Answer Fee or Fees (If applicable)        | \$.... |
| 13 | Garnishment Attorney Fee                  | \$.... |
| 14 | Other                                     | \$.... |

15           YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, unless otherwise directed by the court,  
16 by the attorney of record for the plaintiff, or by this writ, not to  
17 pay any debt, whether earnings subject to this garnishment or any other  
18 debt, owed to the defendant at the time this writ was served and not to  
19 deliver, sell, or transfer, or recognize any sale or transfer of, any  
20 personal property or effects of the defendant in your possession or  
21 control at the time when this writ was served. Any such payment,  
22 delivery, sale, or transfer is void to the extent necessary to satisfy  
23 the plaintiff's claim and costs for this writ with interest.

24           YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to answer this writ by filling in the  
25 attached form according to the instructions in this writ and in the  
26 answer forms and, within twenty days after the service of the writ upon  
27 you, to mail or deliver the original of such answer to the court, one  
28 copy to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, and one copy to the  
29 defendant, in the envelopes provided.

30           If, at the time this writ was served, you owed the defendant any  
31 earnings (that is, wages, salary, commission, bonus, or other  
32 compensation for personal services or any periodic payments pursuant to  
33 a nongovernmental pension or retirement program), the defendant is  
34 entitled to receive amounts that are exempt from garnishment under  
35 federal and state law. You must pay the exempt amounts to the  
36 defendant on the day you would customarily pay the compensation or  
37 other periodic payment. As more fully explained in the answer, the

1 basic exempt amount is the greater of seventy-five percent of  
2 disposable earnings or a minimum amount determined by reference to the  
3 employee's pay period, to be calculated as provided in the answer.  
4 However, if this writ carries a statement in the heading that "This  
5 garnishment is based on a judgment or court order for child support,"  
6 the basic exempt amount is forty percent of disposable earnings.

7 IF THIS IS A WRIT FOR A CONTINUING LIEN ON EARNINGS, YOU MAY DEDUCT  
8 A PROCESSING FEE FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS AFTER  
9 WITHHOLDING UNDER THIS WRIT. THE PROCESSING FEE MAY NOT EXCEED TWENTY  
10 DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST ANSWER AND TEN DOLLARS AT THE TIME YOU SUBMIT THE  
11 SECOND ANSWER.

12 If you owe the defendant a debt payable in money in excess of the  
13 amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ, hold only the  
14 amount set forth in the first paragraph and any processing fee if one  
15 is charged and release all additional funds or property to defendant.

16 IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER THIS WRIT AS COMMANDED, A JUDGMENT MAY BE  
17 ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM  
18 AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WITH ACCRUING INTEREST, ATTORNEY FEES, AND COSTS  
19 WHETHER OR NOT YOU OWE ANYTHING TO THE DEFENDANT. IF YOU PROPERLY  
20 ANSWER THIS WRIT, ANY JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WILL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT  
21 OF ANY NONEXEMPT DEBT OR THE VALUE OF ANY NONEXEMPT PROPERTY OR EFFECTS  
22 IN YOUR POSSESSION OR CONTROL.

23 JUDGMENT MAY ALSO BE ENTERED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT FOR COSTS AND  
24 FEES INCURRED BY THE PLAINTIFF.

25 Witness, the Honorable . . . . ., Judge of the above-entitled  
26 Court, and the seal thereof, this . . . . day of . . . . ., 20. . .

27 [Seal]

28 .....  
29 Attorney for Clerk of  
30 Plaintiff (or the Court  
31 Plaintiff, if no  
32 attorney)  
33 .....  
34 Address By  
35 .....  
36 Address"

37 (2) If an attorney issues the writ of garnishment, the final

1 paragraph of the writ, containing the date, and the subscribed  
2 attorney and clerk provisions, shall be replaced with text in  
3 substantially the following form:

4  
5 "This writ is issued by the undersigned attorney of record for  
6 plaintiff under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of  
7 Washington, and must be complied with in the same manner as a writ  
8 issued by the clerk of the court.

9 Dated this .....day of.....,20.....

10  
11 .....

12 Attorney for Plaintiff

13 ..... .....

14 Address"

Address of the Clerk of the

15 Court

16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 6.27.130 and 1988 c 231 s 27 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 (1) When a writ is issued under a judgment, on or before the date  
19 of service of the writ on the garnishee, the judgment creditor shall  
20 mail or cause to be mailed to the judgment debtor, by certified mail,  
21 addressed to the last known post office address of the judgment debtor,  
22 (a) a copy of the writ and a copy of the (~~judgment or, if it is a~~  
23 ~~district court judgment, a copy of the~~) judgment creditor's affidavit  
24 submitted in application for the writ, and (b) if the judgment debtor  
25 is an individual, the notice and claim form prescribed in RCW 6.27.140.  
26 In the alternative, on or before the day of the service of the writ on  
27 the garnishee or within two days thereafter, the stated documents shall  
28 be served on the judgment debtor in the same manner as is required for  
29 personal service of summons upon a party to an action.

30 (2) The requirements of this section shall not be jurisdictional,  
31 but (a) no disbursement order or judgment against the garnishee  
32 defendant shall be entered unless there is on file the return or  
33 affidavit of service or mailing required by subsection (3) of this  
34 section, and (b) if the copies of the writ and judgment or affidavit,  
35 and the notice and claim form if the defendant is an individual, are  
36 not mailed or served as herein provided, or if any irregularity appears  
37 with respect to the mailing or service, the court, in its discretion,

1 on motion of the judgment debtor promptly made and supported by  
2 affidavit showing that the judgment debtor has suffered substantial  
3 injury from the plaintiff's failure to mail or otherwise to serve such  
4 copies, may set aside the garnishment and award to the judgment debtor  
5 an amount equal to the damages suffered because of such failure.

6 (3) If the service on the judgment debtor is made by a sheriff, the  
7 sheriff shall file with the clerk of the court that issued the writ a  
8 signed return showing the time, place, and manner of service and that  
9 the copy of the writ was accompanied by a copy of a judgment or  
10 affidavit, and by a notice and claim form if required by this section,  
11 and shall note thereon fees for making such service. If service is  
12 made by any person other than a sheriff, such person shall file an  
13 affidavit including the same information and showing qualifications to  
14 make such service. If service on the judgment debtor is made by mail,  
15 the person making the mailing shall file an affidavit including the  
16 same information as required for return on service and, in addition,  
17 showing the address of the mailing and attaching the return receipt or  
18 the mailing should it be returned to the sender as undeliverable.

19 **Sec. 6.** RCW 6.27.140 and 1997 c 59 s 2 are each amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 (1) The notice required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or  
22 served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following form,  
23 printed or typed in type no smaller than elite type:

24 NOTICE OF GARNISHMENT  
25 AND OF YOUR RIGHTS

26 A Writ of Garnishment issued ((by)) in a Washington court has  
27 been or will be served on the garnishee named in the attached  
28 copy of the writ. After receipt of the writ, the garnishee is  
29 required to withhold payment of any money that was due to you  
30 and to withhold any other property of yours that the garnishee  
31 held or controlled. This notice of your rights is required by  
32 law.

33 YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTION RIGHTS:

34 WAGES. If the garnishee is your employer who owes wages or  
35 other personal earnings to you, your employer is required to  
36 pay amounts to you that are exempt under state and federal



1 laws, as explained in the writ of garnishment. You should  
2 receive a copy of your employer's answer, which will show how  
3 the exempt amount was calculated. If the garnishment is for  
4 child support, the exempt amount paid to you will be forty  
5 percent of wages due you, but if you are supporting a spouse or  
6 dependent child, you are entitled to claim an additional ten  
7 percent as exempt.

8 BANK ACCOUNTS. If the garnishee is a bank or other institution  
9 with which you have an account in which you have deposited  
10 benefits such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,  
11 Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, veterans'  
12 benefits, unemployment compensation, or a United States  
13 pension, you may claim the account as fully exempt if you have  
14 deposited only such benefit funds in the account. It may be  
15 partially exempt even though you have deposited money from  
16 other sources in the same account. An exemption is also  
17 available under RCW 26.16.200, providing that funds in a  
18 community bank account that can be identified as the earnings  
19 of a stepparent are exempt from a garnishment on the child  
20 support obligation of the parent.

21 OTHER EXEMPTIONS. If the garnishee holds other property of  
22 yours, some or all of it may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010, a  
23 Washington statute that exempts up to five hundred dollars of  
24 property of your choice (including up to one hundred dollars in  
25 cash or in a bank account) and certain property such as  
26 household furnishings, tools of trade, and a motor vehicle (all  
27 limited by differing dollar values).

28 HOW TO CLAIM EXEMPTIONS. Fill out the enclosed claim form and  
29 mail or deliver it as described in instructions on the claim  
30 form. If the plaintiff does not object to your claim, the  
31 funds or other property that you have claimed as exempt must be  
32 released not later than 10 days after the plaintiff receives  
33 your claim form. If the plaintiff objects, the law requires a  
34 hearing not later than 14 days after the plaintiff receives  
35 your claim form, and notice of the objection and hearing date

1 will be mailed to you at the address that you put on the claim  
2 form.

3 THE LAW ALSO PROVIDES OTHER EXEMPTION RIGHTS. IF NECESSARY, AN  
4 ATTORNEY CAN ASSIST YOU TO ASSERT THESE AND OTHER RIGHTS, BUT  
5 YOU MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID LOSS OF RIGHTS BY DELAY.

6 (2) The claim form required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or  
7 served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following form,  
8 printed or typed in type no smaller than elite type:

9 [Caption to be filled in by judgment creditor  
10 or plaintiff before mailing.]

11 .....  
12 Name of Court  
13 ..... No .....

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 ..... EXEMPTION CLAIM  
17 Defendant,

18 .....  
19 Garnishee Defendant

20 INSTRUCTIONS:

- 21 1. Read this whole form after reading the enclosed  
22 notice. Then put an X in the box or boxes that  
23 describe your exemption claim or claims and write  
24 in the necessary information on the blank lines. If  
25 additional space is needed, use the bottom of the  
26 last page or attach another sheet.

1 2. Make two copies of the completed form. Deliver  
2 the original form by first class mail or in person to  
3 the clerk of the court, whose address is shown at the  
4 bottom of the writ of garnishment. Deliver one of  
5 the copies by first class mail or in person to the  
6 plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and  
7 address are shown at the bottom of the writ. Keep  
8 the other copy. YOU SHOULD DO THIS AS  
9 QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER  
10 THAN 28 DAYS (4 WEEKS) AFTER THE DATE  
11 ON THE WRIT.

12 I/We claim the following money or property as exempt:

13 IF BANK ACCOUNT IS GARNISHED:

14 [ ] The account contains payments from:

15 [ ] Temporary assistance for needy families, SSI, or  
16 other public assistance. I receive \$ . . . . .  
17 monthly.

18 [ ] Social Security. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.

19 [ ] Veterans' Benefits. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.

20 [ ] U.S. Government Pension. I receive \$ . . . . .  
21 monthly.

22 [ ] Unemployment Compensation. I receive \$ . . . . .  
23 monthly.

24 [ ] Child support. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.

25 [ ] Other. Explain . . . . .  
26 . . . . .

27 IF EXEMPTION IN BANK ACCOUNT IS CLAIMED,  
28 ANSWER ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

29 [ ] No money other than from above payments are in  
30 the account.

31 [ ] Moneys in addition to the above payments have  
32 been deposited in the account. Explain . . . . .  
33 . . . . .  
34 . . . . .

1 IF EARNINGS ARE GARNISHED FOR CHILD

2 SUPPORT:

- 3 [ ] I claim maximum exemption.
- 4 [ ] I am supporting another child or other children.
- 5 [ ] I am supporting a husband or a wife.

6 IF PENSION OR RETIREMENT BENEFITS ARE  
7 GARNISHED:

- 8 [ ] Name and address of employer who is paying the
- 9 benefits: .....
- 10 .....

11 OTHER PROPERTY:

- 12 [ ] Describe property .....
- 13 .....
- 14 (If you claim other personal property as exempt, you
- 15 must attach a list of all other personal property that
- 16 you own.)

17 .....

18 Print: Your name If married,

19 name of husband/wife

20 .....

21 Your signature Signature of husband

22 or wife

23 .....

24 .....

25 Address Address

26 (if different from yours)

27 .....

28 Telephone number Telephone number

29 (if different from yours)

30 CAUTION: If the plaintiff objects to your claim, you will have to go

31 to court and give proof of your claim. For example, if you claim that

32 a bank account is exempt, you may have to show the judge your bank

33 statements and papers that show the source of the money you deposited

34 in the bank. Your claim may be granted more quickly if you attach

35 copies of such proof to your claim.

1 IF THE JUDGE DENIES YOUR EXEMPTION CLAIM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE  
2 PLAINTIFF'S COSTS. IF THE JUDGE DECIDES THAT YOU DID NOT MAKE THE  
3 CLAIM IN GOOD FAITH, HE OR SHE MAY DECIDE THAT YOU MUST PAY THE  
4 PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY FEES.

5 **Sec. 7.** RCW 6.27.160 and 2002 c 265 s 3 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) A defendant may claim exemptions from garnishment in the manner  
8 specified by the statute that creates the exemption or by delivering to  
9 or mailing by first class mail to the clerk of the court out of which  
10 the writ was issued a declaration in substantially the following form  
11 or in the form set forth in RCW 6.27.140 and mailing a copy of the form  
12 by first class mail to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney at the  
13 address shown on the writ of garnishment, all not later than twenty-  
14 eight days after the date stated on the writ except that the time shall  
15 be extended to allow a declaration mailed or delivered to the clerk  
16 within twenty-one days after service of the writ on the garnishee if  
17 service on the garnishee is delayed more than seven days after the date  
18 of the writ.

19 [NAME OF COURT]

20 ..... No. ....

21 Plaintiff

22 .....  
23 Defendant

24 ..... CLAIM OF EXEMPTION

25 Garnishee

26 I/We claim the following described property or money as  
27 exempt from execution:

28 .....  
29 .....  
30 .....

31 I/We believe the property is exempt because:

32 .....  
33 .....



1 the failure to release the exempt property. The attorney of record for  
2 the plaintiff may, as an alternative to obtaining a court order  
3 releasing exempt funds, property, or effects, deliver to the garnishee  
4 and file with the court an authorization to release claimed exempt  
5 funds, property, or effects, signed by the attorney, in substantially  
6 the following form:

7 [NAME OF COURT]

8 ..... No. ....

9 Plaintiff,

10 vs. RELEASE OF WRIT OF  
11 GARNISHMENT

12 .....

13 Defendant

14 .....

15 Garnishee.

16  
17 TO THE ABOVE-NAMED GARNISHEE

18 You are hereby directed by the attorney for plaintiff,  
19 under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of  
20 Washington, to release the writ of garnishment issued in  
21 this cause on ....., as follows: ..... [indicate  
22 full or partial release, and if partial the extent to which the  
23 garnishment is released]

24 You are relieved of your obligation to withhold funds  
25 or property of the defendant to the extent indicated in this  
26 release. Any funds or property covered by this release  
27 which have been withheld, should be returned to the  
28 defendant.

29  
30 Date: ..... .....

31 Attorney for Plaintiff

32 **Sec. 8.** RCW 6.27.190 and 2000 c 72 s 4 are each amended to read as  
33 follows:

34 The answer of the garnishee shall be signed by the garnishee or  
35 attorney or if the garnishee is a corporation, by an officer, attorney  
36 or duly authorized agent of the garnishee, under penalty of perjury,

1 and the original delivered, either personally or by mail, to the clerk  
 2 of the court (~~((that issued the writ))~~), one copy to the plaintiff or the  
 3 plaintiff's attorney, and one copy to the defendant. The answer shall  
 4 be made on a form substantially as appears in this section, served on  
 5 the garnishee with the writ (~~(, with minimum exemption amounts for the  
 6 different pay periods filled in by the plaintiff before service of the  
 7 answer forms: PROVIDED, That,))~~). Prior to serving the answer forms  
 8 for a writ for continuing lien on earnings, the plaintiff shall fill in  
 9 the minimum exemption amounts for the different pay periods, and the  
 10 maximum percentages of disposable earnings subject to lien and exempt  
 11 from lien. If the garnishment is for a continuing lien, the answer  
 12 forms shall be as prescribed in RCW 6.27.340 and 6.27.350 (~~(:—AND~~  
 13 ~~PROVIDED FURTHER, That))~~). If the writ is not directed to an employer  
 14 for the purpose of garnishing the defendant's wages, the paragraphs in  
 15 section II of the answer relating to (~~(the))~~ earnings (~~((exemptions))~~)  
 16 and calculations of withheld amounts may be omitted.

17 IN THE ..... COURT  
 18 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR  
 19 THE COUNTY OF .....

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
|                     | NO. ....    |
| Plaintiff           |             |
| vs.                 | ANSWER      |
|                     | TO WRIT OF  |
| Defendant           | GARNISHMENT |
|                     |             |
| Garnishee Defendant |             |

27 SECTION I. On the date the writ of garnishment was issued (~~((by the~~  
 28 ~~court))~~) as indicated by the date appearing on the last page of the  
 29 writ (~~(, defendant (check one) . . . was . . . was not employed by~~  
 30 ~~garnishee; defendant (check one) . . . did . . . did not maintain a~~  
 31 ~~financial account with garnishee; and garnishee (check one) . . . did~~  
 32 ~~. . . did not have possession of or control over any funds, personal~~  
 33 ~~property, or effects of defendant.~~

34 At the time of service of the writ of garnishment on the garnishee  
 35 there was due and owing from the garnishee to the above named defendant  
 36 \$ . . . . . (On the reverse side of this answer form, or on an



1 ~~attached page, give an explanation of the dollar amount stated, or give~~  
2 ~~reasons why there is uncertainty about your answer.)~~

3 ~~If the above amount or any part of it is for personal earnings~~  
4 ~~(that is, compensation payable for personal services, whether called~~  
5 ~~wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and including periodic~~  
6 ~~payments pursuant to a pension or retirement program): Garnishee has~~  
7 ~~deducted from this amount \$ . . . . . which is the exemption to which~~  
8 ~~the defendant is entitled, leaving \$ . . . . . that garnishee holds~~  
9 ~~under the writ. The exempt amount is calculated as follows:~~

10

|    |                                     |         |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 11 | Total compensation due defendant    | \$..... |
| 12 | LESS deductions for social security |         |
| 13 | and withholding taxes and any       |         |
| 14 | other deduction required by law     |         |
| 15 | (list separately and identify)      | \$..... |
| 16 | Disposable earnings                 | \$..... |

17 ~~If the title of this writ indicates that this is a garnishment~~  
18 ~~under a child support judgment, enter forty percent of disposable~~  
19 ~~earnings: \$ . . . . . This amount is exempt and must be paid to the~~  
20 ~~defendant at the regular pay time after deducting any processing fee~~  
21 ~~you may charge.~~

22 ~~If this is not a garnishment for child support, enter seventy five~~  
23 ~~percent of disposable earnings: \$ . . . . . From the listing in~~  
24 ~~the following paragraph, choose the amount for the relevant pay period~~  
25 ~~and enter that amount: \$ . . . . . (If amounts for more than one~~  
26 ~~pay period are due, multiply the preceding amount by the number of pay~~  
27 ~~periods and/or fraction of pay period for which amounts are due and~~  
28 ~~enter that amount: \$ . . . . .) The greater of the amounts entered~~  
29 ~~in this paragraph is the exempt amount and must be paid to the~~  
30 ~~defendant at the regular pay time after deducting any processing fee~~  
31 ~~you may charge.~~

32 ~~Minimum exempt amounts for different pay periods: Weekly~~  
33 ~~\$ . . . . .; Biweekly \$ . . . . .; Semimonthly \$ . . . . .;~~  
34 ~~Monthly \$ . . . . .~~

35 ~~List all of the personal property or effects of defendant in the~~  
36 ~~garnishee's possession or control when the writ was served. (Use the~~  
37 ~~reverse side of this answer form or attach a schedule if necessary.)):~~

1 (A) The defendant: (check one) . . . . was, . . . . was not employed  
2 by garnishee. If not employed and you have no possession or control of  
3 any funds of defendant, indicate the last day of employment: . . . .  
4 . . .; and complete section III of this answer and mail or deliver the  
5 forms as directed in the writ;

6 (B) The defendant: (check one) . . . . did, . . . . did not maintain  
7 a financial account with garnishee; and

8 (C) The garnishee: (check one) . . . . did, . . . . did not have  
9 possession of or control over any funds, personal property, or effects  
10 of the defendant. (List all of defendant's personal property or  
11 effects in your possession or control on the last page of this answer  
12 form or attach a schedule if necessary.)

13 SECTION II. At the time of service of the writ of garnishment on  
14 the garnishee there was due and owing from the garnishee to the above-  
15 named defendant \$ . . . . .

16 This writ attaches a maximum of . . . . percent of the defendant's  
17 disposable earnings (that is, compensation payable for personal  
18 services, whether called wages, salary, commission, bonus, or  
19 otherwise, and including periodic payments pursuant to a  
20 nongovernmental pension or retirement program). Calculate the  
21 attachable amount as follows:

22 Gross Earnings \$ . . . . .(1)

23 Less deductions required by law (social security,  
24 federal withholding tax, etc. Do not include  
25 deductions for child support orders or government  
26 liens here. Deduct child support orders and liens  
27 on line 7): \$ . . . . .(2)

28 Disposable Earnings (subtract line 2 from  
29 line 1): \$ . . . . .(3)

30 Enter . . . . percent of line 3: \$ . . . . .(4)

31 Enter one of the following exempt amounts\*: \$ . . . . .(5)

|    |                 |                  |                |                     |                |
|----|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 32 | <u>If paid:</u> | <u>Weekly</u>    | <u>\$.....</u> | <u>Semi-monthly</u> | <u>\$.....</u> |
| 33 |                 | <u>Bi-weekly</u> | <u>\$.....</u> | <u>Monthly</u>      | <u>\$.....</u> |

34 \*These are minimum exempt amounts that the

1 defendant must be paid. If your answer  
2 covers more than one pay period, multiply  
3 the preceding amount by the number of pay  
4 periods and/or fraction thereof your answer  
5 covers. If you use a pay period not shown,  
6 prorate the monthly exempt amount.

7 Subtract the larger of lines 4 and 5 from  
8 line 3: \$ . . . . .(6)

9 Enter amount (if any) withheld for ongoing  
10 government liens such as child support: \$ . . . . .(7)

11 Subtract line 7 from line 6. This amount  
12 must be held out for the plaintiff: \$ . . . . .(8)

13 This is the formula that you will use for withholding each pay period  
14 over the required sixty-day garnishment period. Deduct any allowable  
15 processing fee you may charge from the amount that is to be paid to the  
16 defendant.

17  
18 If there is any uncertainty about your answer, give an explanation  
19 on the last page or on an attached page.

20 SECTION III. An attorney may answer for the garnishee.

21 Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that I have examined this  
22 answer, including accompanying schedules, and to the best of my  
23 knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.

24 .....

25 Signature of Date  
26 Garnishee Defendant

27 .....

28 Signature of person Connection with  
29 answering for garnishee  
30 garnishee

31 .....

32 ((.....

33 .....

34 Address of Garnishee))

35 .....



1 defendant in any amount, not exempt, when the writ of garnishment was  
2 served, and if the required return or affidavit showing service on or  
3 mailing to the defendant is on file, the court shall render judgment  
4 for the plaintiff against such garnishee for the amount so admitted or  
5 found to be due to the defendant from the garnishee, unless such amount  
6 exceeds the amount of the plaintiff's claim or judgment against the  
7 defendant with accruing interest and costs and attorney's fees as  
8 prescribed in RCW 6.27.090, in which case it shall be for the amount of  
9 such claim or judgment, with said interest, costs, and fees. In the  
10 case of a superior court garnishment, the court shall order the  
11 garnishee to pay to the plaintiff or to the plaintiff's attorney  
12 through the registry of the court the amount of the judgment against  
13 the garnishee, the clerk of the court shall note receipt of any such  
14 payment, and the clerk of the court shall disburse the payment to the  
15 plaintiff. In the case of a district court garnishment, the court  
16 shall order the garnishee to pay the judgment amount directly to the  
17 plaintiff or to the plaintiff's attorney. In either case, the court  
18 shall inform the garnishee that failure to pay the amount may result in  
19 execution of the judgment, including garnishment.

20 (b) If, prior to judgment, the garnishee tenders to the plaintiff  
21 or to the plaintiff's attorney or to the court any amounts due, such  
22 tender will support judgment against the garnishee in the amount so  
23 tendered, subject to any exemption claimed within the time required in  
24 RCW 6.27.160 after the amounts are tendered, and subject to any  
25 controversion filed within the time required in RCW 6.27.210 after the  
26 amounts are tendered. Any amounts tendered to the court by or on  
27 behalf of the garnishee or the defendant prior to judgment shall be  
28 disbursed to the party entitled to same upon entry of judgment or  
29 order, and any amounts so tendered after entry of judgment or order  
30 shall be disbursed upon receipt to the party entitled to same.

31 (2) If it shall appear from the answer of the garnishee and the  
32 same is not controverted, or if it shall appear from the hearing or  
33 trial on controversion or by stipulation of the parties that the  
34 garnishee is indebted to the principal defendant in any sum, but that  
35 such indebtedness is not matured and is not due and payable, and if the  
36 required return or affidavit showing service on or mailing to the  
37 defendant is on file, the court shall make an order requiring the  
38 garnishee to pay such sum into court when the same becomes due, the

1 date when such payment is to be made to be specified in the order, and  
2 in default thereof that judgment shall be entered against the garnishee  
3 for the amount of such indebtedness so admitted or found due. In case  
4 the garnishee pays the sum at the time specified in the order, the  
5 payment shall operate as a discharge, otherwise judgment shall be  
6 entered against the garnishee for the amount of such indebtedness,  
7 which judgment shall have the same force and effect, and be enforced in  
8 the same manner as other judgments entered against garnishees as  
9 provided in this chapter: PROVIDED, That if judgment is rendered in  
10 favor of the principal defendant, or if any judgment rendered against  
11 the principal defendant is satisfied prior to the date of payment  
12 specified in an order of payment entered under this subsection, the  
13 garnishee shall not be required to make the payment, nor shall any  
14 judgment in such case be entered against the garnishee.

15 (3) The court shall, upon request of the plaintiff at the time  
16 judgment is rendered against the garnishee or within one year  
17 thereafter, or within one year after service of the writ on the  
18 garnishee if no judgment is taken against the garnishee, render  
19 judgment against the defendant for recoverable garnishment costs and  
20 attorney fees. However, if it appears from the answer of garnishee or  
21 otherwise that, at the time the writ was issued, the garnishee held no  
22 funds, personal property, or effects of the defendant and, in the case  
23 of a garnishment on earnings, the defendant was not employed by the  
24 garnishee, or, in the case of a writ directed to a financial  
25 institution, the defendant maintained no account therein, then the  
26 plaintiff may not be awarded judgment against the defendant for such  
27 costs or attorney fees.

28 **Sec. 11.** RCW 6.27.265 and 2000 c 72 s 6 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 The judgment on garnishee's answer or tendered funds, and for costs  
31 against defendant, and the order to pay funds shall be substantially in  
32 the following form:

33 IN THE . . . . COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE  
34 COUNTY OF . . . . .

1 ..... No. ....  
 2 Plaintiff  
 3 vs. JUDGMENT AND ORDER  
 4 TO PAY  
 5 (Clerk's Action Required)  
 6 .....  
 7 Defendant  
 8 .....  
 9 Garnishee

Judgment Summary

10 Judgment Creditor .....  
 11 Garnishment Judgment Debtor .....  
 12 Garnishment Judgment Amount .....  
 13 Costs Judgment Debtor .....  
 14 Costs Judgment Amount .....  
 15 Judgments to bear interest at ..... %  
 16 Attorney for Judgment Creditor .....

17  
 18 IT APPEARING THAT garnishee was indebted to defendant in the  
 19 nonexempt amount of \$ . . . . .; that at the time the writ of  
 20 garnishment was issued defendant was employed by or maintained a  
 21 financial institution account with garnishee, or garnishee had in its  
 22 possession or control funds, personal property, or effects of  
 23 defendant; and that plaintiff has incurred recoverable costs and  
 24 attorney fees of \$ . . . . .; now, therefore, it is hereby

25 ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that plaintiff is awarded judgment  
 26 against garnishee in the amount of \$ . . . . .; that plaintiff is awarded  
 27 judgment against defendant in the amount of \$ . . . . . for  
 28 recoverable costs; that, if this is a superior court order, garnishee  
 29 shall pay its judgment amount to plaintiff [or to plaintiff's attorney]  
 30 through the registry of the court, and the clerk of the court shall  
 31 note receipt thereof and forthwith disburse such payment to plaintiff  
 32 [or to plaintiff's attorney]; that, if this is a district court order,  
 33 garnishee shall pay its judgment amount to plaintiff directly [or  
 34 (~~through~~) to plaintiff's attorney], and if any payment is received by  
 35 the clerk of the court, the clerk shall forthwith disburse such payment

1 to plaintiff [or to plaintiff's attorney]. Garnishee is advised that  
2 the failure to pay its judgment amount may result in execution of the  
3 judgment, including garnishment.

4 DONE IN OPEN COURT this . . . . . day of . . . . , 20. .

5 .....  
6 Judge/Court Commissioner

7 Presented by:  
8 .....  
9 Attorney for Plaintiff

10 **Sec. 12.** RCW 6.27.320 and 2000 c 72 s 7 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 In any case where garnishee has answered that it is holding funds  
13 or property belonging to defendant and plaintiff shall obtain  
14 satisfaction of the judgment and payment of recoverable garnishment  
15 costs and attorney fees from a source other than the garnishment, upon  
16 written demand of the defendant or the garnishee, it shall be the duty  
17 of plaintiff to obtain an order dismissing the garnishment and to serve  
18 it upon the garnishee within twenty days after the demand or the  
19 satisfaction of judgment and payment of costs and fees, whichever shall  
20 be later. The attorney of record for the plaintiff may, as an  
21 alternative to obtaining a court order dismissing the garnishment,  
22 deliver to the garnishee and file with the court an authorization to  
23 dismiss the garnishment in whole or part, signed by the attorney, in  
24 substantially the form indicated in RCW 6.27.160(3). In the event of  
25 the failure of plaintiff to obtain and serve such an order or release,  
26 if garnishee continues to hold such funds or property, defendant shall  
27 be entitled to move for dismissal of the garnishment and shall further  
28 be entitled to a judgment against plaintiff of one hundred dollars plus  
29 defendant's costs and damages. Dismissal may be on ex parte motion of  
30 the plaintiff.

31 **Sec. 13.** RCW 6.27.340 and 1988 c 231 s 34 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:



1 (1) Service of a writ for a continuing lien shall comply fully with  
2 RCW 6.27.110.

3 (2) The caption of the writ shall be marked "CONTINUING LIEN ON  
4 EARNINGS" and the following additional paragraph shall be included in  
5 the writ form prescribed in RCW 6.27.100:

6 "THIS IS A WRIT FOR A CONTINUING LIEN. THE GARNISHEE SHALL  
7 HOLD the nonexempt portion of the defendant's earnings due at  
8 the time of service of this writ and shall also hold the  
9 defendant's nonexempt earnings that accrue through the last  
10 payroll period ending on or before SIXTY days after the date of  
11 service of this writ. HOWEVER, IF THE GARNISHEE IS PRESENTLY  
12 HOLDING THE NONEXEMPT PORTION OF THE DEFENDANT'S EARNINGS UNDER  
13 A PREVIOUSLY SERVED WRIT FOR A CONTINUING LIEN, THE GARNISHEE  
14 SHALL HOLD UNDER THIS WRIT only the defendant's nonexempt  
15 earnings that accrue from the date the previously served writ  
16 or writs terminate and through the last payroll period ending  
17 on or before sixty days after the date of termination of the  
18 previous writ or writs. IN EITHER CASE, THE GARNISHEE SHALL  
19 STOP WITHHOLDING WHEN THE SUM WITHHELD EQUALS THE AMOUNT STATED  
20 IN THIS WRIT OF GARNISHMENT."

21 (3) The answer forms served on an employer with the writ shall  
22 include in the caption, "ANSWER TO WRIT OF GARNISHMENT FOR CONTINUING  
23 LIEN ON EARNINGS," and the following paragraph shall be added (~~as the~~  
24 ~~first paragraph~~) to section I of the answer form prescribed in RCW  
25 6.27.190:

26 "If you are withholding the defendant's nonexempt earnings  
27 under a previously served writ for a continuing lien, answer  
28 only (~~this portion~~) sections I and II of this form and mail  
29 or deliver the forms as directed in the writ. Withhold from  
30 the defendant's future nonexempt earnings as directed in the  
31 writ, and a second set of answer forms will be forwarded to you  
32 later.

33 ANSWER: I am presently holding the defendant's nonexempt  
34 earnings under a previous writ served on . . . . . that will  
35 terminate not later than . . . . ., ((19)) 20 . . . .

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.....

If you are NOT withholding the defendant's earnings under a previously served writ for a continuing lien, answer (~~the following portion of~~) this entire form and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ. A second set of answer forms will be forwarded to you later for subsequently withheld earnings."

(4) In the event plaintiff fails to comply with this section, employer may elect to treat the garnishment as one not creating a continuing lien.

**Sec. 14.** RCW 6.27.350 and 1997 c 296 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Where the garnishee's answer to a garnishment for a continuing lien reflects that the defendant is employed by the garnishee, the judgment or balance due thereon as reflected on the writ of garnishment shall become a lien on earnings due at the time of the effective date of the writ, as defined in this subsection, to the extent that they are not exempt from garnishment, and such lien shall continue as to subsequent nonexempt earnings until the total subject to the lien equals the amount stated on the writ of garnishment or until the expiration of the employer's payroll period ending on or before sixty days after the effective date of the writ, whichever occurs first, except that such lien on subsequent earnings shall terminate sooner if the employment relationship is terminated or if the underlying judgment is vacated, modified, or satisfied in full or if the writ is dismissed. The "effective date" of a writ is the date of service of the writ if there is no previously served writ; otherwise, it is the date of termination of a previously served writ or writs.

(2) At the time of the expected termination of the lien, the plaintiff shall mail to the garnishee three additional stamped envelopes addressed as provided in RCW 6.27.110, and four additional copies of the answer form prescribed in RCW 6.27.190(~~(a)~~). The plaintiff shall replace the text of section I of the answer form with a statement in substantially the following form (~~added as the first paragraph~~): "ANSWER (~~THE SECOND PART~~) SECTION II OF THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF EARNINGS WITHHELD UNDER THIS

1 GARNISHMENT, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT, IF ANY, STATED IN YOUR FIRST ANSWER,  
2 AND WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THESE FORMS, MAIL OR DELIVER  
3 THEM AS DIRECTED IN THE WRIT(~~"and (b) with the following lines~~  
4 ~~substituted for the first sentence of the form prescribed in RCW~~  
5 ~~6.27.190+)~~)."

|   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| 6 | Amount due and owing stated in first answer | \$...        |
| 7 | Amount accrued since first answer           | \$...        |
| 8 | <u>TOTAL AMOUNT WITHHELD</u>                | <u>\$...</u> |

9 (3) Within twenty days of receipt of the second answer form the  
10 garnishee shall file a second answer, in the form as provided in  
11 subsection (2) of this section, stating the total amount held subject  
12 to the garnishment.

13 **Sec. 15.** RCW 3.62.060 and 1992 c 62 s 8 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 Clerks of the district courts shall collect the following fees for  
16 their official services:

17 (1) In any civil action commenced before or transferred to a  
18 district court, the plaintiff shall, at the time of such commencement  
19 or transfer, pay to such court a filing fee of thirty-one dollars plus  
20 any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035. No party shall be compelled  
21 to pay to the court any other fees or charges up to and including the  
22 rendition of judgment in the action other than those listed.

23 (2) For issuing a writ of garnishment or other writ, or for filing  
24 an attorney issued writ of garnishment, a fee of six dollars.

25 (3) For filing a supplemental proceeding a fee of twelve dollars.

26 (4) For demanding a jury in a civil case a fee of fifty dollars to  
27 be paid by the person demanding a jury.

28 (5) For preparing a transcript of a judgment a fee of six dollars.

29 (6) For certifying any document on file or of record in the clerk's  
30 office a fee of five dollars.

31 (7) For preparing the record of a case for appeal to superior court  
32 a fee of forty dollars including any costs of tape duplication as  
33 governed by the rules of appeal for courts of limited jurisdiction  
34 (RALJ).

35 (8) For duplication of part or all of the electronic tape or tapes  
36 of a proceeding ten dollars per tape.

1 The fees or charges imposed under this section shall be allowed as  
2 court costs whenever a judgment for costs is awarded.

3 **Sec. 16.** RCW 6.27.010 and 1987 c 442 s 1001 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) As used in this chapter, the term "earnings" means compensation  
6 paid or payable to an individual for personal services, whether  
7 denominated as wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and  
8 includes periodic payments pursuant to a nongovernmental pension or  
9 retirement program.

10 (2) As used in this chapter, the term "disposable earnings" means  
11 that part of earnings remaining after the deduction from those earnings  
12 of any amounts required by law to be withheld.

13 **Sec. 17.** RCW 6.27.060 and 1988 c 231 s 22 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 The judgment creditor as the plaintiff or someone in the judgment  
16 creditor's behalf shall apply for a writ of garnishment by affidavit,  
17 stating the following facts: (1) The plaintiff has a judgment wholly  
18 or partially unsatisfied in the court from which the writ is sought;  
19 (2) the amount alleged to be due under that judgment; (3) the plaintiff  
20 has reason to believe, and does believe that the garnishee, stating the  
21 garnishee's name and residence or place of business, is indebted to the  
22 defendant in amounts exceeding those exempted from garnishment by any  
23 state or federal law, or that the garnishee has possession or control  
24 of personal property or effects belonging to the defendant which are  
25 not exempted from garnishment by any state or federal law; and (4)  
26 whether or not the garnishee is the employer of the judgment debtor.

27 The judgment creditor shall pay to the clerk of the superior court  
28 the fee provided by RCW 36.18.020, or to the clerk of the district  
29 court the fee (~~of two dollars~~) provided by RCW 3.62.060.

--- END ---