

MICHAEL T. CHULAK  
& ASSOCIATES

A L A W C O R P O R A T I O N

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www.MTCLaw.com

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**Fee Agreement – Chapter 7 Bankruptcy**

This document (Agreement) is the written fee contract that California law requires lawyers to have with their clients (Client). Michael T. Chulak & Associates (Attorney) will provide legal services to you, on the terms set forth below.

1. **CONDITIONS.** This Agreement will not take effect, and we will have no obligation to provide legal services, until you return a signed copy of this Agreement and pay the initial deposit, if any, called for under Paragraph 4.
2. **SCOPE OF SERVICES.** You are hiring us as your attorney to represent you in filing a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy . We will take reasonable steps to keep you informed of the progress of the matter and will respond to your inquiries.
3. **CLIENT'S DUTIES.** You agree to be truthful with us, to cooperate, to keep us informed of developments, to abide by this Agreement, to pay our bills on time, and to keep us informed of your address, telephone number and whereabouts.
4. **DEPOSIT.** You agree to pay us an initial deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_, to be returned with this signed Agreement. We will hold this initial deposit in a trust account. You hereby authorize us to use that deposit to pay legal fees incurred plus the expenses incurred under this Agreement.

As your deposit is used, we shall require further deposits in order to replace the amounts invoiced. Once a meeting of creditors hearing date is set, we will require you to pay all sums then owing to us, and to deposit the expenses and legal fees we estimate will be incurred in preparing for and completing the bankruptcy, if any. Those sums may exceed the original deposit. All fees must be paid in advance of our providing legal services. Any unused and unearned deposit at the conclusion of our services will be refunded.

5. **ATTORNEY FEES, EXPENSES AND BILLING PRACTICES.** See attached Fee Schedule (including costs) for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy.
6. **NEGOTIABILITY OF FEES.** The attorney fees set forth above are not set by law, but are negotiable between an attorney and client.
7. **BILLING STATEMENTS.** We will send you periodic billing statements for attorney fees and expenses incurred in connection with this matter. Each statement is to be paid in full within 10 days after the date of such statement. You may request a statement at intervals of no less that thirty days. Upon your request, we will provide a statement within ten days.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **DISCHARGE AND WITHDRAWAL.** You may discharge us at any time, upon written notice to us, and we will immediately after receiving such notice, cease to render additional services. Such a discharge does not, however, relieve you of the obligation to pay any legal fees and costs incurred prior to such termination and we have the right to recover from you the reasonable value of our legal services rendered from the effective date of this Agreement to the date of discharge including reimbursement for any expenses incurred on this matter. In the event of discharge or withdrawal, Client shall reimburse Attorney for the costs of duplicating any file materials provided to Client.

We may withdraw from representation of you with your consent or upon reasonable notice to you.

9. **CONCLUSION OF SERVICES.** When our services conclude, all unpaid charges will immediately become due and payable. You authorize us to use any funds held in our trust account as a deposit against attorney fees and expenses for such unpaid charges. After our services conclude, we will deliver any funds of yours in our possession. Client authorizes and instructs Attorney to destroy all file materials after three years have elapsed from the conclusion of services.

10. **DISPUTES.** In the event that any suit is instituted concerning or arising out of this Agreement, each party shall pay all of such party's costs, including, without limitation, the court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in each and every such action, suit or proceeding, including any and all appeals or petitions there from. Any suit filed shall be in Los Angeles County. Venue shall be the court closest to Attorney's office.

11. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Agreement will take effect when you have performed the conditions stated in Paragraph 1, but its effective date will be retroactive to the date we first performed services. The date at the beginning of this Agreement is for reference only. Even if this Agreement does not take effect, you will be obligated to pay us the reasonable value of any services we may have performed for you.

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Michael T. Chulak & Associates  
A Law Corporation

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I/We have read and understand the foregoing terms and agree to them. If more than one party signs below, we agree to be liable jointly and severally for all obligations under this Agreement. By signing this Agreement, I/we acknowledge receipt of a fully executed duplicate of this Agreement.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Fee Schedule – Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

Preparation and filing of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Petition, responding to  
Creditor letters and phone calls and appearing at the meeting of creditors: \$2,500.00

This fee shall be earned \$2,300.00 upon filing of the petition and \$200.00  
upon appearing at the meeting of creditors.

If requested/required:

- Responding to motions of creditors \$300/hr\*
- Filing amended petition \$300/hr\*
- Filing motions to avoid judicial liens \$300/hr\*
- Appearance at additional hearings \$300/hr\*
- Conversion of Chapter 7 to Chapter 13 \$2,500.00\*

\*Plus court fees and costs.

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