

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5923--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 23, 2021

Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the civil practice law and rules, the banking law and the debtor and creditor law, in relation to exempting COVID-19 stimulus relief for individuals and families with children from money judgments

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph 2 of subdivision (l) of section 5205 of the civil  
2 practice law and rules, as amended by chapter 24 of the laws of 2009, is  
3 amended and a new subdivision (p) is added to read as follows:

4 2. For purposes of this article, "statutorily exempt payments" means  
5 any personal property exempt from application to the satisfaction of a  
6 money judgment under any provision of state or federal law. Such term  
7 shall include, but not be limited to, payments from any of the following  
8 sources: social security, including retirement, survivors' and disabili-  
9 ty benefits, supplemental security income or child support payments;  
10 veterans administration benefits; public assistance; workers' compen-  
11 sation; unemployment insurance; public or private pensions; railroad  
12 retirement; ~~and~~ black lung benefits; and emergency relief funds.

13 (p) Exemption for emergency relief funds. Any payments to individuals,  
14 including tax refunds, recovery rebates, refundable tax credits, and any  
15 advances of any tax credits, under the federal Families First Coronavi-  
16 rus Response Act (FFCRA), Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security  
17 Act of 2020 (CARES Act), Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and  
18 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) are exempt from application to  
19 the satisfaction of a money judgment. This exemption shall not apply  
20 (i) if the debt enforced is for child support, spousal support, mainte-  
21 nance, alimony, a distributive award in a matrimonial action, or resti-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 tution in a family offense proceeding, or (ii) to that portion of any  
2 money judgment awarded on a claim that the emergency relief funds refer-  
3 enced herein are the rightful property of the judgment creditor.

4 § 2. Subdivision (e) of section 5222 of the civil practice law and  
5 rules, as amended by chapter 575 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (e) Content of notice. The notice required by subdivision (d) of this  
8 section shall be in substantially the following form and may be included  
9 in the restraining notice:

10 NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR OR OBLIGOR

11 Money or property belonging to you may have been taken or held in  
12 order to satisfy a judgment or order which has been entered against you.  
13 Read this carefully.

14 YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET YOUR MONEY BACK

15 State and federal laws prevent certain money or property from being  
16 taken to satisfy judgments or orders. Such money or property is said to  
17 be "exempt". The following is a partial list of money which may be  
18 exempt:

- 19 1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
- 20 2. Social security;
- 21 3. Public assistance (welfare);
- 22 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
- 23 5. Unemployment benefits;
- 24 6. Disability benefits;
- 25 7. Workers' compensation benefits;
- 26 8. Public or private pensions;
- 27 9. Veterans benefits;
- 28 10. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty  
29 days;
- 30 11. Twenty-five hundred dollars of any bank account containing statu-  
31 torily exempt payments that were deposited electronically or by direct  
32 deposit within the last forty-five days, including, but not limited to,  
33 your social security, supplemental security income, veterans benefits,  
34 public assistance, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, public  
35 or private pensions, railroad retirement benefits, black lung benefits,  
36 or child support payments;
- 37 12. Railroad retirement; ~~and~~
- 38 13. Black lung benefits; and
- 39 14. COVID-19 stimulus relief for individuals and families with chil-  
40 dren.

41 If you think that any of your money that has been taken or held is  
42 exempt, you must act promptly because the money may be applied to the  
43 judgment or order. If you claim that any of your money that has been  
44 taken or held is exempt, you may contact the person sending this notice.

45 Also, YOU MAY CONSULT AN ATTORNEY, INCLUDING ANY FREE LEGAL SERVICES  
46 ORGANIZATION IF YOU QUALIFY. You can also go to court without an attor-  
47 ney to get your money back. Bring this notice with you when you go. You  
48 are allowed to try to prove to a judge that your money is exempt from  
49 collection under New York civil practice law and rules, sections fifty-  
50 two hundred twenty-two-a, fifty-two hundred thirty-nine and fifty-two  
51 hundred forty. If you do not have a lawyer, the clerk of the court may  
52 give you forms to help you prove your account contains exempt money that  
53 the creditor cannot collect. The law (New York civil practice law and  
54 rules, article four and sections fifty-two hundred thirty-nine and  
55 fifty-two hundred forty) provides a procedure for determination of a  
56 claim to an exemption.

1 § 3. Paragraph 4 of subdivision (b) of section 5222-a of the civil  
2 practice law and rules, as added by chapter 575 of the laws of 2008, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 4. Content of exemption notice and exemption claim form. a. The  
5 exemption notice shall be in the following form:

6 "EXEMPTION NOTICE  
7 as required by New York Law

8 YOUR BANK ACCOUNT IS RESTRAINED OR "FROZEN"

9 The attached Restraining Notice or notice of Levy by Execution has  
10 been issued against your bank account. You are receiving this notice  
11 because a creditor has obtained a money judgment against you, and one or  
12 more of your bank accounts has been restrained to pay the judgment. A  
13 money judgment is a court's decision that you owe money to a creditor.  
14 You should be aware that FUTURE DEPOSITS into your account(s) might also  
15 be restrained if you do not respond to this notice.

16 You may be able to "vacate" (remove) the judgment. If the judgment is  
17 vacated, your bank account will be released. Consult an attorney  
18 (including free legal services) or visit the court clerk for more infor-  
19 mation about how to do this.

20 Under state and federal law, certain types of funds cannot be taken  
21 from your bank account to pay a judgment. Such money is said to be  
22 "exempt."

23 DOES YOUR BANK ACCOUNT CONTAIN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF FUNDS?

- 24 1. Social security;
- 25 2. Social security disability (SSD);
- 26 3. Supplemental security income (SSI);
- 27 4. Public assistance (welfare);
- 28 5. Income earned while receiving SSI or public assistance;
- 29 6. Veterans benefits;
- 30 7. Unemployment insurance;
- 31 8. Payments from pensions and retirement accounts;
- 32 9. Disability benefits;
- 33 10. Income earned in the last 60 days (90% of which is exempt);
- 34 11. Workers' compensation benefits;
- 35 12. Child support;
- 36 13. Spousal support or maintenance (alimony);
- 37 14. Railroad retirement; [~~and/or~~]
- 38 15. Black lung benefits; and/or
- 39 16. COVID-19 stimulus relief for individuals and families with  
40 children.

41 If YES, you can claim that your money is exempt and cannot be taken.  
42 To make the claim, you must

- 43 (a) complete the EXEMPTION CLAIM FORM attached;
- 44 (b) deliver or mail the form to the bank with the restrained or  
45 "frozen" account; and
- 46 (c) deliver or mail the form to the creditor or its attorney at the  
47 address listed on the form.

48 You must send the forms within 20 DAYS of the postmarked date on the  
49 envelope holding this notice. You may be able to get your account  
50 released faster if you send to the creditor or its attorney written  
51 proof that your money is exempt. Proof can include an award letter from  
52 the government, an annual statement from your pension, pay stubs, copies  
53 of checks, bank records showing the last two months of account activity,  
54 or other papers showing that the money in your bank account is exempt.

1 If you send the creditor's attorney proof that the money in your account  
 2 is exempt, the attorney must release that money within seven days. You  
 3 do not need an attorney to make an exemption claim using the form."  
 4 b. The exemption claim form shall be in the following form:

5 NAME OF COURT, NAME OF COUNTY

6 -----x

7 PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER/CLAIMANT  
 8 V.  
 9 DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

INDEX NO.  
  
 EXEMPTION CLAIM FORM

10 -----x

11 NAME AND ADDRESS OF JUDGMENT  
 12 CREDITOR OR ATTORNEY  
 13 (To be completed by judgment  
 14 creditor or attorney)  
 15 ADDRESS  
 16 A \_\_\_\_\_  
 17 \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FINANCIAL  
 INSTITUTION  
 (To be completed by judgment  
 creditor or attorney)  
 ADDRESS  
 B \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

18 Directions: To claim that some or all of the funds in your account are  
 19 exempt, complete both copies of this form, and make one copy for your-  
 20 self. Mail or deliver one form to ADDRESS A and one form to ADDRESS B  
 21 within twenty days of the date on the envelope holding this notice.  
 22 \*\*If you have any documents, such as an award letter, an annual state-  
 23 ment from your pension, paystubs, copies of checks or bank records show-  
 24 ing the last two months of account activity, include copies of the docu-  
 25 ments with this form. Your account may be released more quickly.

26 \_\_\_\_\_

27 I state that my account contains the following type(s) of funds (check  
 28 all that apply):

- 29 \_\_\_ Social security
- 30 \_\_\_ Social security disability (SSD)
- 31 \_\_\_ Supplemental security income (SSI)
- 32 \_\_\_ Public assistance
- 33 \_\_\_ Wages while receiving SSI or public assistance
- 34 \_\_\_ Veterans benefits
- 35 \_\_\_ Unemployment insurance
- 36 \_\_\_ Payments from pensions and retirement accounts
- 37 \_\_\_ Income earned in the last 60 days (90% of which is exempt)
- 38 \_\_\_ Child support
- 39 \_\_\_ Spousal support or maintenance (alimony)
- 40 \_\_\_ Workers' compensation
- 41 \_\_\_ Railroad retirement or black lung benefits
- 42 COVID-19 stimulus relief for individuals and families with children
- 43 \_\_\_ Other (describe exemption): \_\_\_\_\_

44 I request that any correspondence to me regarding my claim be sent to  
 45 the following address:

46 \_\_\_\_\_

1 (FILL IN YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS)

2 I certify under penalty of perjury that the statement above is true to  
3 the best of my knowledge and belief.

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 DATE SIGNATURE OF JUDGMENT DEBTOR

6 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 9-g of the banking law, as added by  
7 chapter 10 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

8 1. (a) No banking institution shall assert, claim or exercise any  
9 right of set off against any deposit account into which social security  
10 or supplemental security income payments are deposited pursuant to an  
11 agreement with such banking institution which provides that such  
12 payments be deposited directly into such deposit account without presen-  
13 tation to the depositor at the time of deposit.

14 (b) No banking institution shall assert, claim or exercise any right  
15 of set off against any payments referred to in subdivision (p) of  
16 section fifty-two hundred five of the civil practice law and rules.

17 § 5. Section 3 of the debtor and creditor law is amended by adding a  
18 new fifth undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

19 The right of any person to payments, including tax refunds, recovery  
20 rebates, refundable tax credits, and any advances of any tax credits,  
21 under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Coro-  
22 navirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act),  
23 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and American Rescue Plan Act of  
24 2021 (ARPA) shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equi-  
25 ty.

26 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.