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Notice to Debtors about Bankruptcy Petition Preparers

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

In re _____)
_____)Bankruptcy Case No. _____
)
Debtor(s))Chapter ____
_____)
)

**NOTICE TO DEBTORS ABOUT
BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARERS**

Please be aware that special rules apply to bankruptcy petition preparers in this court.

Bankruptcy petition preparers are *non-attorneys who are not authorized to practice law or give legal advice*. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court has issued the *Bankruptcy Petition Preparer Guidelines* (the "Guidelines") to govern the work performed by bankruptcy petition preparers and the fees they may charge.

Under the *Guidelines*, **a bankruptcy petition preparer must give you a copy of this notice before taking any money or property from you for payment and before preparing any papers for filing in the bankruptcy court**. You and the bankruptcy petition preparer must sign a copy of this Notice in the space below, a copy must be given to you, and the original must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court.

According to the Court's *Guidelines*, a bankruptcy petition preparer *may not*:

- Advise you whether to file bankruptcy or whether chapter 7, 11, 12 or 13 is more appropriate for you;
- Advise you whether your debts will be eliminated, or "discharged," in a bankruptcy case;
- Advise you whether you will be able to keep your home after filing a bankruptcy case;
- Advise you as to the tax consequences of filing a bankruptcy case;
- Advise you whether you should promise to repay, or "reaffirm," debts to creditors; or
- Charge you more than **\$150** for preparing, photocopying and forwarding your bankruptcy papers to the bankruptcy court.

The *Guidelines* contain additional restrictions. A [complete copy of the Guidelines](#) [1] is attached to this form. You should read the *Guidelines* to understand what the U. S. Bankruptcy court requires of bankruptcy petition preparers.

If you have any questions about bankruptcy petition preparers or believe that the *Guidelines* have been

violated, please call the United States Trustee at the following numbers:

San Francisco/Santa Rosa Office	415.705.3333
Oakland Office	510.637.3200
San Jose/Salinas Office	408.535.5525

DEBTOR(S)' CERTIFICATION

I, _____, and _____, the debtor(s) in the above-captioned case, have read and understand the foregoing, and have received a copy of the Guidelines.

Dated: _____

 (signature)

 (signature)

BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am the bankruptcy petition preparer who has assisted the debtor(s) in filing the above-captioned case. I have not charged fees in excess of the amount allowed in Guideline 1 of the *Guidelines*, attached hereto. I have not advised the debtor(s) concerning any of the matters referred to in Guideline 3.

Dated: _____

 (signature)

(Original to be filed with the original petition; duplicate copy to be given to the debtor(s) by bankruptcy petition preparer.)

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Links:

[1] <http://www.canb.uscourts.gov/procedures/dist/guidelines/bankruptcy-petition-preparer-guidelines>