Debt Collection Case Timeline

Plaintiff files with the Court, then serves
Summons & Complaint

Either party can send Discovery during the Case. Responses are due within 30 days if received in person or 35 days if by mail.

Within 30 Days After Service/Receipt*

Within 30 Days After Service/Receipt*

Defendant Does not file **Answer**

OR

Defendant serves, then files with Court
Answer

1-6 Months

Plaintiff serves, then files with Court
Request for Entry of Default
(no earlier than 31st day after service on Defendant)

Both parties must try to talk about the case at least 30 days before the Case Management Review, then serve and file
Case Management Statement

At Least 15 Days Before

Case Management Review
Parties may or may not have to go to court for this (check Notice of Case Management Review, **Case Summary online****, or ask clerk).

Court
Enters Default
Defendant **CANNOT** respond

Approx. 6 Months or More

Trial

Judgment
Ordered in Court at trial, by mail after trial, or by Default (if Defendant did not file an Answer).

Ways for Plaintiff to Collect Judgment if Wins Case:
1. **Wage Garnishment**
2. **Bank Account Levy** aka Bank Garnishment, Account Attachment.
3. **Abstract of Judgment** (creates property lien, only if Defendant owns property)
4. **Sheriff's Till Tap/Keeper** (only if Defendant is a business)
5. **Order for Appearance and Examination** (ORAP)

Within 10 days (if served to you in person) or 15 Days (if by mail) for Bank Levy; Anytime for Wage Garnishment

Judgment Debtor can file a **Claim of Exemption** with Sheriff to ask to reduce or eliminate the amount due.

Within 10 Days for Bank Levy or Wage Garnishment

Plaintiff can file **Opposition to Claim of Exemption** with the Sheriff and request a hearing on the Claim of Exemption or can accept Defendant's request to reduce the debt by not doing anything.

* As long as Plaintiff has not been granted Entry of Default, Defendant can still answer the complaint after 30 days have passed.

** Go to the following web address: http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/civilCaseSummary/ Enter your case number. You will then get case information including a summary of the most recent filings, orders, and upcoming hearings in your case.

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