



## **Bankruptcy Petition Preparers**

- **People who advertize themselves as “bankruptcy petition preparers” are not lawyers and are not authorized to give you legal advice when preparing your petition.**
- Their role is strictly to complete your forms for you with the information that you provide to them.

If a bankruptcy petition preparer give you advice about what papers are legally appropriate and what should or should not be included on schedules, be very cautious about taking their advice. Petition preparers are not attorneys and you should not rely solely on information they give you.

- If you do use a bankruptcy petition prepare, you must disclose their name and information to the court. If you do not, there may be serious consequences, including denial of a discharge

Most of the required forms in a bankruptcy case are available for free on the internet at:

~ <http://www.uscourts.gov/FormsAndFees/Forms/BankruptcyForms.aspx> (federal forms)

~ <http://www.mieb.uscourts.gov/forms/all-forms> (local forms)

**Note:** You can also get the required forms for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy in person at the Intake Counter at the Clerk’s Office (211 W. Fort Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Detroit, MI 48226)

**\*\*\* You do not need to hire a bankruptcy petition preparer to get the required forms \*\*\***

Completing the required forms correctly can be complicated and confusing and the Clerk’s Office strongly recommends that you obtain the advice of an attorney. Bankruptcy petition preparers cannot give you such legal advice.

By Court order, a bankruptcy petition preparer **CANNOT** charge you more than **\$100** for his/her services.