



FAIRFAX COUNTY GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

A JUDGMENT HAS BEEN ENTERED AGAINST YOU - NOW WHAT?

PAYMENT

The General District Court does not accept payment on Civil or Small Claims judgments. You need to contact the Judgment Creditor (the plaintiff or party awarded the judgment) or his or her attorney in order to make arrangements to pay the judgment.

APPEAL

If you do not feel satisfied with the outcome of the trial, you may appeal your case to the Fairfax Circuit Court. You must note your appeal **in writing within 10 calendar days** of the judgment and **perfect the appeal within 30 calendar days** of judgment by appearing at the Clerk's Office. If a money judgment was awarded against you, you will be required to post a cash or corporate surety bond with the Court in order to perfect your appeal. Bond is usually set for the amount of the judgment plus costs. On **Unlawful Detainer** appeals, you must note and **perfect** your appeal within 10 calendar days of judgment by posting a bond, which may include up to six months of future rent. You will need to call or see the Clerk in order to determine the exact amount of the bond plus Circuit Court's writ tax and notice fee. All documents entered into the case in General District Court will be transferred to the Circuit Court upon appeal. The Circuit Court will send you a notice by certified mail telling you when your new trial will be heard. If you do not receive this notice within 4 to 5 weeks of filing your appeal, you should contact the Circuit Court at 703-246-4358.

MOTION TO REHEAR

If a default judgment was entered against you because you could not appear in Court on your trial date for a **valid reason**, you may want to file a Motion to Rehear to request that the judge vacate the judgment and rehear the case in the General District Court. In most instances, this motion must be filed within 30 days and heard within 45 days of judgment. Whereas an appeal is a guaranteed new trial, Motions to Rehear are infrequently granted and only for legitimate circumstances.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

The Judgment Creditor may ask the Court for the following to assist him in collecting his judgment:

- **Interrogatory Summons** - This will summons you into Court to answer questions about your assets. If you do not appear, you may be arrested.
- **Garnishment** - Your wages and/or bank accounts may be garnished to satisfy the judgment.
- **Levy** - The Sheriff can place a lien on your personal property which may then be sold at a Sheriff's sale with the proceeds going to the Judgment Creditor.
- **Docketing of Judgment** - The judgment may be docketed against the land records in any Circuit Court in Virginia. This places a lien against any real property (house, land) you may have in that jurisdiction.
- **Operator's License** - If your judgment was based on damages due to a motor vehicle accident, DMV may suspend your driver's license until the judgment is satisfied.
- **Credit Rating** - An outstanding civil judgment may adversely affect your credit rating. Credit checks are done frequently and any unpaid judgments are noted.

THE JUDGMENT CREDITOR MUST NOTIFY THE COURT WITHIN 30 DAYS ONCE A JUDGMENT HAS BEEN SATISFIED. YOU MAY WANT TO CALL THE COURT TO VERIFY RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE.

Fairfax County General District Court, Civil Division
4110 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030
Court Information Line 703-691-7320
TTY for hearing impaired only 703-934-1296

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/gendist

For reasonable ADA accommodations or alternate format please contact 703-246-2153.

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