

If you need more help understanding debtor's rights there are places that can help:

- The Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Protection Agency: at www.ftc.gov/consumerprotection
- The Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Protection FAQ's: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre18.shtm
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service: (502) 458-8840 or www.apprisen.com
- The Legal Aid Society: (502) 584-1254 or www.laslou.org



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 Apprisen
Financial Advocates | Consumer Credit
Counseling Service

Go Direct:

All new enrollees in government benefits from the Social Security Administration, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management & Department of Labor will receive payments through direct deposit.

Anyone currently receiving federal checks will be switched to direct deposit on March 1, 2013.

Benefits of Direct Deposit:

- **Safer, Easier:** Electronic payments provide a safer & more convenient way for people to get their federal benefits. Banks & Credit Unions are safer than check cashing establishments & your money is more secure from theft & natural disasters.
- **More Convenient:** When people get payments electronically, they don't need to make extra trips to access their money. This is particularly important to people who are elderly, disabled, or who lack access to transportation.
- **Taxpayer Savings:** \$120 million will be saved by switching to direct deposit.



To learn more about the Go Direct campaign, visit www.godirect.org

Direct Deposit, changes & concerns:

➤ There are many benefits associated with switching from paper checks to directly depositing wages & government benefits, but you still may have some questions & concerns.

➤ This brochure answers some frequently asked questions & directs you to additional resources if you need more help understanding direct deposit & the recent changes in policy relating to government benefits.



www.Bank On Louisville.com



There are new rules about garnishing accounts containing directly deposited government benefits...

In the past, when a financial institution received a garnishment order they would freeze the account & it was up to the account holder to prove that there were government benefits in the account.

The US Treasury has issued a new rule that protects directly deposited benefits:

- When financial institutions receive a garnishment order they must review the account & determine the amount of benefits received during the two months immediately preceding receipt of the order. This two month balance is the “protected amount.”
- The financial institution must assure that the account holder has access to this “protected amount” at all times.
- Then, within three business days of completing the account review the financial institution must send a notice to the account holder that tells them the amount of their protected benefits.
- This notice also tells the account holder about their right to appeal for protection of the remaining benefits in their account.
- The benefits protected by the new rule include Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), VA, Federal Employee Retirement, Civil Service Retirement & benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board.

Many federal benefits are exempt from garnishment:

- Social Security & Veteran’s Benefits
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Civil Service & Federal Retirement & Disability
- Service Members’ Pay
- Military Annuities & Survivors’
- Student Assistance
- Railroad Retirement
- Merchant Seamen Wages
- Longshoremen’s & Harbor Workers’ Death & Disability
- Foreign Service Retirement & Disability
- Compensation for Injury, Death, or Detention of Employees of U.S. Contractors Outside the U.S.

Federal benefits may be garnished under certain circumstances, including to pay delinquent taxes, alimony, child support, or student loans.

