

## **Recovering Money from a Bankrupt Company**

Whether you paid by check, cash, or credit card, you may be able to recover some of your money from a company that has filed either Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.

If Chapter 11, the company is legally able to remain in operation and you may be able to continue the transaction. As a first step, try contacting the company directly.

If Chapter 7, the firm will cease operating, and you must file proof of your claim on forms available from the Bankruptcy Court by calling (916) 551-2662. To verify that the Court received your completed claim form, you can enclose a self-addressed, pre-stamped envelope with a note asking the Court to send you back a copy of your claim.

If your purchase was made by credit card AND you have paid the bill already, you must also file a claim with the Bankruptcy Court. However, if you have not as yet paid the credit card bill, you may be able to dispute the charge under the Fair Credit Act.

The Act provides that you have 60 days from the time you receive the bill containing the charge in question, to notify the credit card company of the problem. Such disputes should always be sent in writing, even if you utilized a special customer service telephone number your credit card company may provide.

Your letter should be sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested. Be sure it includes your name, account number, date, nature and amount of the charge, and an explanation of why you are disputing the charge.