**COLLECTING YOUR SMALL CLAIMS JUDGMENT – MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

A small claims judgment does not mean that you will automatically receive your money. The court does not collect your judgment for you. If the person you sued (the debtor) does not agree to pay you voluntarily, it is up to you to take the next steps to try to collect your judgment.

These are some steps you can take:

* **Docketing the Judgment:** You can docket the judgment by taking the case file to
**Clerk of Courts, Room 104** and paying the $5.00 docketing fee.
	+ This gives you a lien against any real estate owned by the debtor in Milwaukee County for ten years.
	+ If you believe the debtor owns real estate in another county, you can docket the judgment at that county’s Clerk of Courts Office.
* **Sending a Financial Disclosure Form (SC-506A and SC-506B):** You can obtain a Financial Disclosure Form and Order on Financial Disclosure at the **Milwaukee County Law Library, Room G-8** or online at
**wicourts.gov🡪forms🡪circuit court🡪small claims.** Send this to the debtor by Certified Mail.
	+ The debtor should complete the document and return it to you within 15 days after judgment is entered.
	+ This information may help you decide whether the debtor has anything to garnish to retrieve your money, such as a bank account or wages from a job.
	+ If the debtor does not return the form, you can return to the Small Claims Court to request a contempt hearing.
* **Garnishing Wages:** You can obtain Earnings Garnishment paperwork in
**Clerk of Courts, Room 104** . The filing fee is $96.00.
	+ If you know where the debtor is working, you may be able to garnish their wages for up to 13 weeks. This garnishment is able to be renewed for up to 10 years.
	+ There are situations where the debtor’s wages cannot be garnished, for example if the perceive is indigent or if their wages are already being garnished to the maximum amount possible.
* **Garnishing Bank Accounts:** You can obtain the Non-Earnings Garnishment paperwork in **Clerk of Courts, Room 104.** The filing fee is $96.00.
	+ If you know where the debtor has a bank account, you may be able to have their account garnished on a one-time basis.
	+ There are situations where the debtor’s account cannot be garnished, for example if the money in the account came from public benefits.

Seek legal advice for more information and for assistance
in choosing the best option for your case.