## Make Debt a Thing of the Past

By: Nancy Kirby

## http://azdebtcollectionlaw.com/

Many people who suffered financially during the recent recession are determined to protect themselves from future financial strain as much as possible. One of the best ways to avoid living paycheck to paycheck in the future is to minimize your debt load today and to build some personal savings. To make these things happen, you need a sound financial management plan. These tips will help you assess your financial situation and develop a plan to reach financial security.

- 1. <u>Write and follow a budget</u>. Using last month's bank statement, credit card bills, and any cash receipts you have, make a list of your monthly expenditures by category. This will help you develop a clear picture of where your money went, which will help you write a budget for next month. No two months are exactly alike, so make adjustments in next month's budget where you'd like to save more and spend less. Be sure to include line items for your emergency fund and long-term savings, and remember that any amount saved is better than nothing.
- 2. <u>Keep expenses under control</u>. Reviewing last month's spending while preparing your monthly budget may shed light on some leaks in the budget you didn't realize existed. Most people are surprised to learn how much of their money goes to restaurants and grocery stores via impulse purchases. One benefit of following a monthly budget is limiting optional expenses.
- 3. <u>Plan for predictable expenses</u>. Flat tires and Christmas gifts are not emergencies. Vehicle maintenance and other predictable expenses should be line items in your monthly budget. The monthly allotments for these 'sinking funds' should be tracked on paper to remind you that all that 'extra money' accumulating in your account has a purpose.
- 4. <u>Set aside an emergency fund</u>. True emergencies do happen, and it helps to be financially prepared. Build an emergency fund as quickly as possible. One week's income should be your initial goal, and then add a little each month. This fund will help ease the stress of unexpected emergencies.
- 5. <u>Live within your means</u>. As stated above, no two months are exactly alike, and you may need to tweak your budget many times to make your month fit your money. If you have been filling the gaps with credit and your <u>savings account</u> is bare, then you probably already know you haven't been living within your means. Start drafting a budget now that will help you reach your financial goals.

As a professional debt collection law firm, we regularly encounter consumers who, for one reason or another, lost control of their finances. While we are determined to <u>collect debt</u> legally owed to our clients, we do so with as much understanding and compassion as possible, often making arrangements for consumers to pay debts without going to court.

## About Seidberg Law

Unlike a "collection agency", a professional debt collection law firm will work both in and out of the court system to help collect money owed. At <u>Seidberg Law</u>, we will first exhaust all non-judicial means to encourage delinquent customers to pay. If that doesn't work, we can engage the legal process to seek payment of unpaid accounts.

Don't let outstanding debt bankrupt your business. Call the professional debt collection attorneys at <u>Seidberg Law</u> for help. Centrally located in Phoenix, Arizona, Seidberg Law can help recover delinquent debts from debtors throughout Arizona. Call Seidberg Law today at (623) 258-4397 or visit us online at <u>www.seidberglaw.com</u>.