



TAMPA BAY BANKRUPTCY CENTER, P.A.

PHONE: (813) 200-4133

TOLL FREE: (800) 965-5074

**January 24, 2012**

## How to Prevent Credit Card Issuers from Stopping Your Bankruptcy

One of the main sources of unsecured debts for bankruptcy filers is credit card debt. Since the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BAPCPA) was passed in 2005, more restrictions have been put in place to making a bankruptcy filing. This is to prevent anyone from simply filing for bankruptcy and getting all their massive debts written off without paying for them. Thus with the enforcement of the BAPCPA in 2005, credit card issuers now have more clout in your bankruptcy. For one thing, credit card issuers can now block your bankruptcy filing.

It is to the best interests of credit card issuers to file a dispute to prevent you from filing bankruptcy so that you are compelled to pay up all your credit card debts. With this new right they have afforded them by the BAPCPA, credit card issuers will find just about any excuse they can think of to block your bankruptcy. So here's what you can do to stop their actions:

1. Use only one credit card If you need to make your purchases of necessities like food or gas, try to make them all using only one card. If that is not possible because of credit card limits, try to use as few cards as you can because one of the reasons the bankruptcy court can use to throw out your bankruptcy filing is multiple card usage to jack up your debts. Also make sure you keep your credit card statements and purchase receipts so that you can prove the necessity of your purchases.
2. Get a refund for luxury items purchases According to the law, you will be scrutinized for your credit card spending for up to 90 days prior to your bankruptcy filing. So if you have made purchases of non-essential luxury items within that time, you may want to consider returning the items to reverse your credit card purchases and reduce your debts.

3. Keep credit card debt to a reasonable limit Generally the limit at which the credit card issuers dispute your bankruptcy filing is \$10,000 of debt. So try as far as possible to keep your credit card debt to under \$10,000. Of course, the amount of credit card debt you hold should be as low as possible. And while this is not an absolute figure, it is a good gauge of how much debt is too much in the eyes of credit card issuers. However, take note that credit card issuers can technically file a dispute to your bankruptcy no matter how little or much you owe them.

So take note of these factors when filing for bankruptcy. If you wish to file for bankruptcy, contact us at (813) 200 4133 for a free consultation.