

PIMA COUNTY AJO JUSTICE COURT  
111 La Mina Avenue, Ajo, AZ 85321 (520) 387-7684

**COLLECTION OF A MONEY JUDGMENT**

If you receive a money judgment, it is your responsibility to legally collect from the debtor. The Justice Court can provide you with many of the forms and instructions needed to start your collection proceedings.

<p><b>A JUDGMENT IS NOT SELF-COLLECTING</b> <b>GARNISHMENTS, EXECUTIONS, AND LIENS</b> <b>ARE AVAILABLE OPTIONS WHEN PURSUING COLLECTION ON YOUR JUDGMENT</b></p>
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**GARNISHMENT**

A garnishment is a process that may enable you to gain access to monies owed to the judgment debtor by others, such as wages the person is earning at a job, or through a bank account. To do this, you must know where the judgment debtor works, banks, or who may owe the judgment debtor money. After completing the forms and paying the filing fee, a Writ of Garnishment will be issued by the Court Clerk. You may then take the papers to either a Constable or a private process server to have them served upon the party or business holding the money. After the business, employer, or party holding the money files an answer to the garnishment, you may file a Motion and Order requesting the Court to release the money to you.

**EXECUTION**

A Writ of Execution is used when you want to have the Constable go to the judgment debtor and attempt collection of the judgment for you. The Writ of Execution form is available at the Information Counter. After the filing fee is paid, the form is completed and Writ issued, it will be forwarded along with a check or money order for service fees to the Constables' Office. The Constable will go to the defendant's home or business and try to collect the judgment. The Execution may be returned unsatisfied, partially satisfied, or satisfied. Please contact the Constable's Office (520-387-7684) for proper information on service charges and answers to any questions you may have regarding the specifics of this Execution.

**JUDGMENT LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY**

A judgment entered in a Justice Court can be transcribed to Superior Court and recorded as a lien in the county where the judgment is docketed. It affects the judgment debtor's real property currently owned or acquired later (except certain real property exempt from execution) including the interest in the homestead. The judgment lien is active for five years from the date of the judgment. If you choose this procedure, a request to issue a Transcript of the judgment must be filed and a fee paid in the Justice Court. When the Transcript is ready, you may take it to the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for filing. When the filing fee is paid a case number will be assigned. You may then take the Superior Court Transcript of the judgment to any County Recorder's Office in a county where you think the debtor owns real property. A recording fee will be required to record the judgment. When the recording is completed, the Judgment Lien is then effective.

**JUDGMENT LIENS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES**

A lien can be put against a judgment debtor's driver's license 60 days after a judgment is entered in civil cases involving motor vehicle accidents (A.R.S. §28-4071). Before the Motor Vehicle Department will allow a lien on someone's license, you will have to complete a document at the Justice Court certifying that the judgment is not satisfied and pay a fee for a certified copy of the judgment. When the certification is ready, you may deliver it to the Motor Vehicle Department and file it with that office.

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**SATISFACTION OF JUDGMENT**

After you are successful in collecting the judgment through the options mentioned above, you **must** sign and file a Satisfaction of Judgment with the Justice Court. This form is available at the Court. If your case has been transcribed to Superior Court, the Satisfaction of Judgment **must** be filed in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court. If you have recorded your judgment in the Recorder's Office, you must also file a copy of the Satisfaction of Judgment in their office as well.