

Debt...

How to use this pack

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Most debt problems can be sorted out by going through the ‘money advice’ process. This pack describes how you can do this yourself to sort out your debts.

To follow the money advice process you simply:

- check whether you can get more money, reduce your bills or manage your bills better
- check that you owe (are liable for) the debts
- sort your debts into priority (important) debts and non-priority (less important) debts
- look at your income and your expenses, to see what you can afford to pay creditors
- sort out your priority debts before dealing with all other debts.

To get the best results, it's important to work through the whole process, dealing with your whole financial situation.

Some golden rules

Don't ignore your debt problems

Don't ignore court papers or creditors' letters

Don't borrow money to pay off your debts

Do tell your creditors you are dealing with your financial difficulties

Do fill in and return forms

Do go to court if there is a hearing

Do sort out your important debts first

If you have an urgent situation, such as a court hearing in the next few days, get advice.

Getting advice

You can get advice from a local advice agency. To find out where to go, ask at your Local Service Centre or use the “Find a legal adviser” tab at www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk