

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY: NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	STATE BAR NO.:  STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	LEVYING OFFICER (name and address):       
<b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF</b> STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:		COURT CASE NUMBER:
<b>EARNINGS WITHHOLDING ORDER FOR SUPPORT (Wage Garnishment)</b>		LEVYING OFFICER FILE NUMBER:

**EMPLOYEE: KEEP YOUR COPY OF THIS LEGAL PAPER.**

**EMPLEADO: GUARDE ESTE PAPEL OFICIAL.**

**EMPLOYER: Enter the following date to assist your record keeping.**

*Date this order was received by employer (specify the date of personal delivery by levying officer or registered process server or the date mail receipt was signed):*

**TO THE EMPLOYER REGARDING YOUR EMPLOYEE:**

Name and address of employee

Name and address of employee

Social Security No. ☐ on form WG-035 ☐ unknown

1. A judgment creditor has obtained this order to collect a court judgment against your employee. You are directed to withhold part of the earnings of the employee (*see instructions on page 2 of this form*). Pay the withheld sums to the **levying officer** (name and address above).  
 If the employee works for you now, you must **give the employee a copy of this order and *Employee Instructions* (form WG-003)** within 10 days after receiving this order.  
**Complete both copies of *Employer's Return* (form WG-005) and mail them to the levying officer** within 15 days after receiving this order, whether or not the employee works for you.
2. The total amount due is: \$  
 Count 30 calendar days from the date when you received this order. If your employee's pay period ends before the 30th day, **do not** withhold earnings payable for that pay period. **Do** withhold from earnings that are payable for any pay period ending on or after that 30th day. If you receive notice that the employee has filed a claim of exemption, read the Employer's Instructions on page 2 of this form for more information about calculating the start of the withholding period.  
 Continue withholding for all pay periods until you withhold the amount due. The levying officer will notify you of an assessment you should withhold in addition to the amount due. Do not withhold more than the total of these amounts. Never withhold any earnings payable before the beginning of the earnings withholding period.
3. The judgment was entered in the court shown above. The judgment creditor is (name):
4. The Employer's Instructions on page 2 of this form tell you how much of the employee's earnings to withhold each payday and contain special rules that apply to *Earnings Withholding Order for Support* (form WG-004). Follow those instructions unless you receive a court order or order from the levying officer giving you other instructions.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE)

☐ LEVYING OFFICER

☐ REGISTERED PROCESS SERVER

## EMPLOYER'S INSTRUCTIONS (EARNINGS WITHHOLDING ORDERS FOR SUPPORT)

The instructions apply only to *Earnings Withholding Orders for Support* (this order). Applicable instructions appear on other types of Earnings Withholding Orders.

The instructions in paragraph 1 on page 2 of this form describe your early duties to provide information to your employee and the levying officer.

Your other duties are TO WITHHOLD THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF EARNINGS (if any) and PAY IT TO THE LEVYING OFFICER during the *withholding period*.

The usual *withholding period* begins 30 calendar days after you receive the *Earnings Withholding Order for Support*. However, if the employee files a claim of exemption and notifies you of the filing no later than 29 days after you receive *Earnings Withholding Order for Support*, then the withholding period begins 45 days after the date the employee was served with *Earnings Withholding Order for Support*.

The withholding period for this order continues until one of two things happens:

- (1) the total amount specified in the Order, plus any amounts listed in a notice from the levying officer, has been withheld, or
- (2) you receive a court order or notice signed by the levying officer specifying a termination date.

You are entitled to rely on and should obey all written notices signed by the levying officer.

*Employer's Return* (form WG-005) describes several situations that could affect the withholding period for this order. If you receive more than one Earnings Withholding Order during a withholding period, review *Employer's Return* for instructions.

Your duty to withhold does not end merely because the employee no longer works for you. Withholding for *Earnings Withholding Order for Support* does not automatically terminate until one year after the employment of the employee by the employer ends.

### WHAT TO DO WITH THE MONEY

The amounts withheld during the withholding period must be paid to the levying officer by the 15th of the next month after each payday. If you wish to pay more frequently than monthly, each payment must be made within 10 days after the close of the pay period.

*Be sure to mark each check with the case number, the levying officer's file number, if different, and the employee's name so the money will be applied to the correct account*

### WHAT IF YOU STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

The garnishment law is contained in the Code of Civil Procedure beginning with section 706.010. Sections 706.022, 706.025, and 706.104 explain the employer's duties.

The Federal Wage Garnishment Law and federal rules provide the basic protections on which the California law is based.

Inquiries about the federal law will be answered by mail, telephone or personal interview at any office of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor. Offices are listed in the telephone directory under the U.S. Department of Labor in the U.S. Government listing.

### COMPUTATION INSTRUCTIONS

State and federal law limits the amount of earnings that can be withheld. The limitations are based on the employee's disposable earnings, which are different from gross pay or take-home pay. To determine the CORRECT AMOUNT OF EARNINGS TO BE WITHHELD (if any), compute the employee's *disposable* earnings.

(A) Earnings include any money, (whether called wages, salary, commissions, bonuses or anything else) that is paid by an employer to an employee for personal services. Vacation or sick pay is subject to withholding as it is received by the employee. Tips are generally not included as earning since they are not paid by the employer.

(B) *Disposable earnings* are the earnings left after subtracting the part of the earnings a state or federal law requires an employer to withhold. Generally these required deductions are (1) federal income tax, (2) federal social security, (3) state income tax, (4) state disability insurance, and (5) payments to public employees' retirement systems. Disposable earnings will change when the required deductions change.

After the employee's disposable earnings are known, WITHHOLD FIFTY (50) PERCENT of the *disposable earnings* for the Withholding Order for Support. For example, if the employee has monthly disposable earnings of \$1,432, the sum of \$716 would be withheld to pay to the levying officer on account of this order.

Occasionally, the employee's earnings will also be subject to a Wage and Earnings Assignment Order, an order available for child support or spousal support. The amount required to be withheld for that order should be deducted from the amount to be withheld for this order. For example, if the employee is subject to a Wage and Earnings Assignment Order and the employer is required to withhold \$300 per month to pay on that order, when the employer receives this Earnings Withholding Order for Support, the employer should deduct the \$300 for the Wage and Earnings Assignment Order from the \$716 and pay the balance to the levying officer each month for this order.

### IMPORTANT WARNINGS

1. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO FIRE THE EMPLOYEE BECAUSE OF EARNINGS WITHHOLDING ORDERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ONLY ONE INDEBTEDNESS. No matter how many orders you receive, so long as they all relate to judgment (no matter how many debts are represented in that judgment) the employee may not be fired.
2. IT IS ILLEGAL TO AVOID AN EARNINGS WITHHOLDING ORDER BY POSTPONING OR ADVANCING THE PAYMENT OF EARNINGS. The employee's pay period must not be changed to prevent the order from taking effect.
3. IT IS ILLEGAL NOT TO PAY AMOUNTS WITHHELD FOR THE EARNINGS WITHHOLDING ORDER TO THE LEVYING OFFICER. Your duty is to pay the money to the levying officer who will pay the money in accordance with the laws that apply to this case.

**IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE LAWS, YOU MAY BE HELD LIABLE TO PAY CIVIL DAMAGES AND YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION!**