

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2194

Introduced by

Senators Wardner, Klein, Kringstad

Representatives Glassheim, Keiser, Nottestad

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 32-09.1-07, 32-09.1-20, and 32-09.1-21 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to garnishment of wages.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 32-09.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **32-09.1-07. Form of summons and notice.** The garnishee summons must state that
7 the garnishee must serve upon the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney within twenty days after
8 service of the garnishee summons a written disclosure, under oath, of indebtedness to the
9 defendant and answers to all written interrogatories that are served with the garnishee
10 summons. The plaintiff may not require disclosure of indebtedness or property of the
11 defendant in the garnishee's possession or under the garnishee's control to the extent that the
12 indebtedness or property exceeds one hundred ten percent of the amount of the judgment
13 which remains unpaid. The garnishee summons must include the full name of the defendant
14 and place of residence and the amount of the judgment which remains unpaid. The garnishee
15 summons must also state that the garnishee must retain property or money in the garnishee's
16 possession pursuant to this chapter until the plaintiff causes a writ of execution to be served
17 upon the garnishee or until the defendant authorizes release to the plaintiff and must state that
18 after the expiration of the period of time specified in section 32-09.1-20, the garnishee must
19 release all retained property and money to the defendant and is discharged and relieved of all
20 liability on the garnishee summons. The garnishee summons must state that no employer may
21 discharge any employee because the employee's earnings are subject to garnishment. The
22 garnishee summons must state that any assignment of wages made by the defendant or
23 indebtedness to the garnishee incurred within ten days before the receipt of notice of the first
24 garnishment on the underlying debt is void. The garnishee summons must state the date of the

entry of judgment against the defendant. The garnishee summons must state that the defendant must provide to the garnishee within ten days after receipt of the garnishee summons a verified list of the dependent family members who reside with the defendant and their social security numbers, if any, to have the maximum amount subject to garnishment reduced under subsection 2 of section 32-09.1-03. The garnishee summons must state that failure of the defendant to provide a verified list to the garnishee within ten days after receipt of the garnishee summons is conclusive with respect to whether the defendant claims no family members.

The garnishee summons and notice to defendant must be substantially in the following form:

State of North Dakota)	In _____ Court
) ss.	
County of _____)	_____

Plaintiff		
against		Garnishee Summons and
_____		Notice to Defendant
Defendant		
and		

Garnishee		

The State of North Dakota to the above-named Garnishee:

You must serve upon the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, within twenty days after service of this summons upon you, a written disclosure, under oath, setting forth the amount of any debt you may owe to the defendant, _____ (give full name and residence of defendant) and a description of any property, money, or effects owned by the defendant which are in your possession. Your disclosure need not exceed \$_____. (Enter 110 percent of the plaintiff's judgment which remains unpaid.) The date of entry of the judgment against the defendant was _____ (enter date of entry of plaintiff's judgment) and the amount of the judgment that remains unpaid is \$_____.

The defendant must provide you with a verified list of the names of dependent family members who reside with the defendant and their social security numbers if the defendant desires to have the garnishment amount reduced under subsection 2 of section 32-09.1-03. Failure of the defendant to provide the list to you is conclusive to establish that the defendant claims no dependent family members reside with the defendant.

Failure to disclose and withhold may make you liable to the plaintiff for the sum of \$_____. (Enter the lesser of the plaintiff's judgment against the defendant or 110 percent of the amount that remains unpaid.)

You must retain the defendant's nonexempt property, money, and effects in your possession until a writ of execution is served upon you, until the defendant authorizes release to the plaintiff, or until the expiration of ~~180~~ 270 days from the date of service of this summons upon you. If no writ of execution has been served upon you or no agreement has been made for payment within ~~180~~ 270 days, the garnishment ends and any property or funds held by you must be returned to the defendant if the defendant is otherwise entitled to their possession.

Any assignment of wages by the defendant or indebtedness to you incurred by the defendant within ten days before the receipt of the first garnishment on a debt is void and should be disregarded.

You may not discharge the defendant because the defendant's earnings are subject to garnishment.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 19____.

By: _____

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

To: _____

The garnishee summons, garnishment disclosure form, and written interrogatories (strike out if not applicable), that are served upon you, were also served upon _____, the garnishee.

(Attorneys for Plaintiff)

(Address)

(Telephone)

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 32-09.1-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

32-09.1-20. Termination of garnishment. A garnishee summons lapses and the garnishee is discharged of any liability upon the expiration of ~~one hundred eighty~~ two hundred seventy days after the service of the summons, or a longer period of time either agreed to in writing by the plaintiff and the defendant or ordered by the court. Immediately upon the lapse of the garnishee summons, all earnings, money, property, and effects ~~which that~~ the garnishee has been retaining pursuant to the garnishment ~~shall~~ must be returned to the defendant if the defendant is otherwise legally entitled to receipt of them.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 32-09.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

32-09.1-21. Continuing lien on wages. A plaintiff may obtain a ~~ninety-day~~ one hundred eighty-day continuing lien on wages by garnishment. ~~If a lien is to be obtained, the A~~ plaintiff obtaining a continuing lien on wages by garnishment shall mark "continuing lien" on the caption of the garnishee summons ~~"continuing lien" and all.~~ Each garnishment disclosure forms form must include the following:

Garnishee provide the garnishee will continue to hold the nonexempt portion of the defendant's earnings as ~~they~~ the earnings accrue through the last payroll period ending on or before ~~ninety~~ one hundred eighty days from the effective date of the garnishee summons, or until the sum held equals the amount stated in the garnishee summons, or until the employment relationship terminates, whichever first occurs.

~~At the time of~~ the expected termination of the lien, the plaintiff shall mail ~~to the~~ the garnishee an additional copy of the garnishment disclosure form upon which the garnishee within ten days shall make further disclosure.