
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5865

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Lovick, Wagoner, Dhingra, and Trudeau)

READ FIRST TIME 01/16/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to garnishment forms; amending RCW 6.27.340 and
2 6.27.350; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 6.27.340 and 2012 c 159 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Service of a writ for a continuing lien shall comply fully
7 with RCW 6.27.110.

8 (2) If the writ is directed to an employer for the purpose of
9 garnishing the defendant's wages, the first answer shall accurately
10 state, as of the date the writ of garnishment was issued as indicated
11 by the date appearing on the last page of the writ, whether the
12 defendant was employed by the garnishee defendant (and if not the
13 date employment terminated), whether the defendant's earnings were
14 subject to a preexisting writ of garnishment for continuing liens on
15 earnings (and if so the date such writ will terminate and the current
16 writ will be enforced), whether the defendant maintained a financial
17 account with garnishee, and whether the garnishee defendant had
18 possession of or control over any funds, personal property, or
19 effects of the defendant (and if so the garnishee defendant shall
20 list all of defendant's personal property or effects in its
21 possession or control). The first answer shall further accurately

1 state, as of the time of service of the writ of garnishment on the
2 garnishee defendant, the amount due and owing from the garnishee
3 defendant to the defendant, and the defendant's total earnings,
4 allowable deductions, disposable earnings, exempt earnings,
5 deductions for superior liens such as child support, and net earnings
6 withheld under the writ. The first answer (~~may be substantially in~~
7 ~~the following~~) may be substantially in the same form as the form
8 developed by the Washington pattern forms committee (~~form~~;

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IN THE COURT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF

....., NO.
Plaintiff,
vs. FIRST ANSWER
....., TO WRIT OF
Defendant, GARNISHMENT
..... FOR CONTINUING LIEN
Garnishee Defendant ON EARNINGS

19 SECTION I. ~~If you are withholding the defendant's nonexempt~~
20 ~~earnings under a previously served writ for a continuing~~
21 ~~lien, answer only sections I and III of this form and mail or~~
22 ~~deliver the forms as directed in the writ. Withhold from the~~
23 ~~defendant's future nonexempt earnings as directed in the~~
24 ~~writ, and a second set of answer forms will be forwarded to~~
25 ~~you later.~~

26 ~~If you are NOT withholding the defendant's earnings under a~~
27 ~~previously served writ for a continuing lien, answer this~~
28 ~~ENTIRE form and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the~~
29 ~~writ. A second set of answer forms will be forwarded to you~~
30 ~~later for subsequently withheld earnings.~~

31 ~~ANSWER: I am presently holding the defendant's nonexempt~~
32 ~~earnings under a previous writ served on that~~
33 ~~will terminate not later than, 20~~

1 On the date the writ of garnishment was issued as indicated
2 by the date appearing on the last page of the writ:

3 (A) The defendant: (check one) was, was not employed
4 by garnishee. If not employed and you have no possession or
5 control of any funds of defendant, indicate the last day of
6 employment:; and complete section III of this
7 answer and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ;

8 (B) The defendant: (check one) did, did not maintain
9 a financial account with garnishee; and

10 (C) The garnishee: (check one) did, did not have
11 possession of or control over any funds, personal property,
12 or effects of the defendant. (List all of defendant's
13 personal property or effects in your possession or control on
14 the last page of this answer form or attach a schedule if
15 necessary.)

16 SECTION II. At the time of service of the writ of garnishment
17 on the garnishee there was due and owing from the garnishee
18 to the above-named defendant \$

19 This writ attaches a maximum of percent of the
20 defendant's disposable earnings (that is, compensation
21 payable for personal services, whether called wages, salary,
22 commission, bonus, or otherwise, and including periodic
23 payments pursuant to a nongovernmental pension or retirement
24 program).

25 Calculate the attachable amount as follows:

26 Gross Earnings \$ (1)
27 Less deductions required by law (social security,
28 federal withholding tax, etc. Do not include
29 deductions for child support orders or government
30 liens here. Deduct child support orders and liens
31 on line 7): \$ (2)
32 Disposable Earnings (subtract line 2 from
33 line 1): \$ (3)
34 Enter percent of line 3: \$ (4)
35 Enter one of the following exempt
36 amounts*: \$ (5)

1 ~~DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THESE FORMS, MAIL OR DELIVER THEM AS DIRECTED~~
2 ~~IN THE WRIT."~~

3 ~~Nonexempt amount due and owing stated in \$...~~
4 ~~first answer~~
5 ~~Nonexempt amount accrued since first answer \$...~~
6 ~~TOTAL AMOUNT WITHHELD \$..-))~~

7 (3) Within (~~twenty~~) 20 days of receipt of the second answer
8 form the garnishee shall file a second answer(~~(, either)~~) in the form
9 as provided in subsection (2) of this section, stating the total
10 amount held subject to the garnishment(~~(, or otherwise containing the~~
11 ~~information required in subsection (2) of this section and a~~
12 ~~calculation indicating the total amount due and owing from the~~
13 ~~garnishee defendant to the defendant, the defendant's total earnings,~~
14 ~~allowable deductions, disposable earnings, exempt earnings,~~
15 ~~deductions for superior liens such as child support, and net earnings~~
16 ~~withheld under the writ)) or otherwise containing the information
17 required in subsection (2) of this section and a calculation
18 indicating the total amount due and owing from the garnishee
19 defendant to the defendant, the defendant's total earnings
20 deductions, disposable earnings, exempt earnings, deductions for
21 superior liens such as child support, and net earnings withheld under
22 the writ.~~

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The Washington pattern forms committee
24 must complete the development of the new forms referenced in sections
25 1 and 2 of this act by December 31, 2026.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect
27 May 1, 2027.

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