
SENATE BILL 5865

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Lovick, Wagoner, Dhingra, and Trudeau

Prefiled 12/10/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to garnishment forms; and amending RCW 6.27.340
2 and 6.27.350.

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~~) shall be provided using the form developed by the
8 Washington pattern forms committee or a substantially equivalent
9 form(÷

10 IN THE COURT
11 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR
12 THE COUNTY OF

13 NO.
14 Plaintiff,
15 vs. FIRST ANSWER
16 TO WRIT OF
17 Defendant, GARNISHMENT
18 FOR CONTINUING LIEN
19 Garnishee Defendant ON EARNINGS

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

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

32 ~~ANSWER: I am presently holding the defendant's nonexempt~~
33 ~~earnings under a previous writ served on that~~
34 ~~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)

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If paid: Weekly \$..... Semi- \$.....
monthly
Bi-weekly \$..... Monthly \$.....

~~*These are minimum exempt amounts that the defendant must be paid. If your answer covers more than one pay period, multiply the preceding amount by the number of pay periods and/or fraction thereof your answer covers. If you use a pay period not shown, prorate the monthly exempt amount.~~

~~Subtract the larger of lines 4 and 5 from line 3:..... \$.....(6)~~

~~Enter amount (if any) withheld for ongoing government liens such as child support:..... \$.....(7)~~

~~Subtract line 7 from line 6. This amount must be held out for the plaintiff:..... \$.....(8)~~

~~This is the formula that you will use for withholding each pay period over the required sixty day garnishment period. Deduct any allowable processing fee you may charge from the amount that is to be paid to the defendant.~~

~~If there is any uncertainty about your answer, give an explanation on the last page or on an attached page.~~

~~SECTION III. An attorney may answer for the garnishee.~~

~~Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that I have examined this answer, including accompanying schedules, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.~~

.....
Signature of Date

Garnishee Defendant

.....
Signature of Person Connection with

Answering for Garnishee

Garnishee

.....

1 ~~Print Name of Person~~

2 ~~Signing~~ ~~Address of Garnishee~~

3 ~~(3) Prior to serving the answer forms for a writ for continuing~~
4 ~~lien on earnings, the plaintiff shall fill in the minimum exemption~~
5 ~~amounts for the different pay periods, and the maximum percentages of~~
6 ~~disposable earnings subject to lien and exempt from lien)).~~

7 ((4)) (3) In the event plaintiff fails to comply with this
8 section, employer may elect to treat the garnishment as one not
9 creating a continuing lien.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 6.27.350 and 2012 c 159 s 14 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Where the garnishee's answer to a garnishment for a
13 continuing lien reflects that the defendant is employed by the
14 garnishee, the judgment or balance due thereon as reflected on the
15 writ of garnishment shall become a lien on earnings due at the time
16 of the effective date of the writ, as defined in this subsection, to
17 the extent that they are not exempt from garnishment, and such lien
18 shall continue as to subsequent nonexempt earnings until the total
19 subject to the lien equals the amount stated on the writ of
20 garnishment or until the expiration of the employer's payroll period
21 ending on or before ((sixty)) 60 days after the effective date of the
22 writ, whichever occurs first, except that such lien on subsequent
23 earnings shall terminate sooner if the employment relationship is
24 terminated or if the underlying judgment is vacated, modified, or
25 satisfied in full or if the writ is dismissed. The "effective date"
26 of a writ is the date of service of the writ if there is no
27 previously served writ; otherwise, it is the date of termination of a
28 previously served writ or writs.

29 (2) At the time of the expected termination of the lien, the
30 plaintiff shall mail ((to)) the garnishee ((one copy of the answer
31 form prescribed in RCW 6.27.340)) a copy of the second answer form
32 developed by the Washington pattern forms committee or a
33 substantially equivalent form. ((The plaintiff shall replace the text
34 of section I of the answer form with a statement in substantially the
35 following form: "ANSWER SECTION II OF THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE
36 TOTAL AMOUNT OF EARNINGS WITHHELD UNDER THIS GARNISHMENT, INCLUDING
37 THE AMOUNT, IF ANY, STATED IN YOUR FIRST ANSWER, AND WITHIN TWENTY

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)).~~

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