



## Can I "not file" on a credit card in my bankruptcy?

I'm sometimes asked by a bankruptcy client if they can "not file" on a particular credit card in their Chapter 7 (discharge of debts) bankruptcy. Or "not include" it in their bankruptcy, or "how can I keep this credit card". Here's the deal...

1. You have to include all your debts in the bankruptcy petition and schedules. To fail to do so could result in not getting a bankruptcy discharge on any of your debts.
2. If the amount owed on that card is less than \$600, you are allowed to pay it off prior to the filing of the petition and therefore not list it because there would be no debt. But the credit card company would probably cancel the account anyway after your bankruptcy. These days, credit card companies are taking a harder line than they used to. Therefore it doesn't make a lot of sense to use your scarce money to pay off that card.
3. After your bankruptcy discharge, you will probably get offers of new (low limit) credit cards. This is a good thing. Get one of those cards and use it to help rebuild your credit. Use the following link for an article about rebuilding your credit after bankruptcy.

<http://ca-bankruptcylaw.com/2009/05/will-bankruptcy-ruin-my-credit>

Malcolm Ruthven  
Attorney at Law  
San Francisco Bay Area  
415.342.4666 Fax 415.869.6645  
[mruthven@mruthvenlaw.com](mailto:mruthven@mruthvenlaw.com)  
[ca-bankruptcylaw.com](http://ca-bankruptcylaw.com)



Click [bankruptcy](#) for more information from [Malcolm Ruthven](#)