

What to Know About Money Judgments

1

Judgments Can Be Enforced for 20 Years

After a money judgment is entered, the creditor can try to collect on it for twenty years and might try to garnish wages, place a lien on your property, or freeze your bank account.

2

Interest and Fees are Usually Added on to Judgments

Interest is automatically added to a judgment after it is entered. As of 2022, the law in New York adds a 2% interest to all judgments. When the judgment is collected, the county Sheriff usually also adds a "poundage fee" for steps they take to collect.

3

There are Limits on How Much Can Be Garnished

Only one garnishment can be in effect at one time and certain kinds of income are protected from being taken. The most a private creditor can garnish from your income is 10% of your salary before taxes OR 25% of your salary after taxes (whichever amount is larger).

4

Child Support and Government Judgments are Different

If you owe a judgment for child support, alimony, or government debts, these rules do not apply and more actions can be taken to enforce the debts.