

1 **3-802. Garnishment.**

2 A. **Garnishment procedure.** After the filing of the judgment on the underlying  
3 dispute and ~~upon~~ on timely application of the judgment creditor, the clerk of the court shall issue  
4 a writ of garnishment.

5 B. **Service of writ of garnishment.** A writ of garnishment issued ~~[pursuant to]~~ under  
6 this rule shall be served by the judgment creditor on the garnishee wherever the garnishee may be  
7 found in the State of New Mexico. The writ shall be served and return of service filed in the same  
8 manner as provided by Rule 3-202 NMRA for service of the summons and complaint. At the same  
9 time as the writ of garnishment is served on the garnishee, a copy of the writ of garnishment shall  
10 be sent to the judgment debtor's last known address, and, if counsel remains of record in the  
11 proceeding, to the last known address of the judgment debtor's counsel. A separate certificate of  
12 service shall be filed by the judgment creditor indicating transmission of the writ on the judgment  
13 debtor.

14 C. **Service of additional forms on garnishee.** In addition to the writ, the following  
15 forms shall be served by the judgment creditor on the garnishee:

16 (1) a copy of the application for writ of garnishment and the writ of  
17 garnishment; and

18 (2) unless the garnishment is for wages, a copy of the notice of right to claim  
19 exemptions and a copy of the claim of exemption form.

20 D. **Answer by garnishee.** The garnishee shall answer the writ of garnishment within  
21 twenty (20) days of service as required by Section 35-12-4 NMSA 1978.

22 E. **Appearance by garnishee.** A garnishee may appear in person in any garnishment  
23 proceeding. If the garnishee is a partnership, the garnishee may appear by one of its general

1 partners. If the garnishee is a corporation, an officer, director, or general manager of the  
2 corporation may answer the writ; however, any other appearance shall be through an attorney  
3 representing the garnishee corporation. The court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs  
4 to the garnishee.

5 **F. Service on judgment debtor by garnishee.** On or before the fourth business day  
6 ~~following~~ after service of the writ of garnishment, the garnishee shall mail or otherwise deliver  
7 to each named judgment debtor or to the judgment debtor's attorney of record a copy of the forms  
8 served on the garnishee by the judgment creditor ~~pursuant to~~ under Paragraph C of this rule.

9 **G. Exemption from garnishment.** A judgment debtor who is a natural person:

10 (1) shall receive an exemption from garnishment of wages to the extent  
11 provided by law; and

12 (2) may claim a statutory exemption from garnishment other than wages by  
13 filing with the court a claim of exemption within ten (10) days after service by the garnishee of  
14 notice of the right to claim exemptions.

15 **H. Service of the claim of exemption.** The judgment debtor shall serve a copy of the  
16 completed and signed claim of exemption form ~~upon~~ on the judgment creditor and the garnishee  
17 in the manner provided by Rule 3-203 NMRA.

18 **I. Failure to file claim of exemption other than wages.** If the judgment debtor fails  
19 to file a claim of exemption within ten (10) days after service of the notice of the right to claim  
20 exemptions, the judgment debtor shall be deemed to have waived the right to claim a statutory  
21 exemption other than wages. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for actions filed on or after July 1,  
22 2023, it shall not be necessary for a judgment debtor to assert an exemption to the first two  
23 thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) held in a depository or investment account. Nor shall

1 any failure to assert a claim of exemption constitute waiver of any protections for Unemployment  
2 Compensation under Section 51-1-37 NMSA 1978.

3           **J. Notice of dispute.** Within ten (10) days after service on the judgment creditor of a  
4 claim of exemption, the judgment creditor may dispute any claimed exemption by filing a notice  
5 of dispute and request for hearing with the court. If the judgment creditor fails to file the notice of  
6 dispute and request for hearing within the time permitted, the judgment debtor's claim of  
7 exemption is granted. If the judgment creditor files a notice of dispute, the judgment creditor shall  
8 at the time of filing of the notice serve a copy of the notice of dispute and request for hearing on  
9 the judgment debtor.

10           **K. Notice of hearing on dispute.** If the judgment creditor files a notice of dispute and  
11 request for hearing, the court shall promptly give notice of the date and time of the hearing to the  
12 judgment creditor, garnishee, and the judgment debtor. The judgment creditor shall serve a copy  
13 of the notice of dispute and request for hearing on the judgment debtor and the garnishee.

14           **L. Hearing.** A hearing on the claim of exemption shall be held within ten (10) days  
15 after the filing of a notice of dispute and request for hearing. At the hearing, the court must  
16 determine the merits of the dispute unless the court postpones decision pending such discovery as  
17 may be required to determine the status of the property.

18           **M. Judgment on writ of garnishment.** If a notice of dispute and request for hearing  
19 is filed [~~pursuant to~~] under this rule, judgment on the writ of garnishment shall not enter until a  
20 hearing has been held on the dispute. If the court finds that the property is not exempt from  
21 garnishment, the court shall enter a judgment on the writ of garnishment requiring the garnishee  
22 to turn over to the judgment creditor the property or amount of money set forth in the judgment.

1           N.     **Form of writs, notices and claim of exemptions.** Applications for writs of  
2 garnishment, writs, answers, notices of right to claim exemptions, claims of exemptions, notices  
3 of dispute of claimed exemptions and request for hearing, and judgments shall be substantially in  
4 the form approved by the Supreme Court.

5 [As adopted, effective January 1, 1996; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2024-  
6 00107, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2024.]

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8           **Committee commentary.** — Applications for writs of garnishment or execution are timely  
9 if filed “within seven years after the rendition or revival of the judgment” in the case. NMSA 1978,  
10 Section 39-1-20 (1971). But no writ of garnishment or execution may issue “after fourteen years  
11 from the date of the original judgment upon which it is founded.” NMSA 1978, Section 37-1-2  
12 (2021).

13 [Adopted by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2024-00107, effective for all cases pending or  
14 filed on or after December 31, 2024.]