



## DEBT WARNING SIGNS



Put a check in front of each sentence if you've ever found yourself in any of these situations.

- \_\_\_ 1. Routinely spend more than you earn.
- \_\_\_ 2. Skip payments on some bills to pay others.
- \_\_\_ 3. Use credit cards to buy things you used to pay with cash (groceries, electric bill).
- \_\_\_ 4. At, or over, the limit on your credit cards and make only minimum payments on cards.
- \_\_\_ 5. More of your total income goes to pay off debts, which doesn't leave enough for basic needs such as food, clothing, insurance, the house payment or rent.
- \_\_\_ 6. Have more than two or three major credit cards.
- \_\_\_ 7. Use overnight mail or Fed Ex to get payments to creditors.
- \_\_\_ 8. Transfer balances from one card to another instead of making a monthly payment.
- \_\_\_ 9. Use cash advances to pay bills or make payments on other cards.
- \_\_\_ 10. Written a check hoping that you'll be able to cover it by the time it clears your bank.
- \_\_\_ 11. Tried to make a purchase with your credit card and it was declined or you were denied credit or a loan.
- \_\_\_ 12. Creditors or collectors were calling you about overdue bills.
- \_\_\_ 13. You lie to or argue with your spouse or other family member about your spending or hide credit card statements from family members.

These are **debt warning signs**. If you've experienced **five or less** of these, you may have caught the problem before it's unmanageable, but you must act immediately to change your spending habits.

If you've experienced **six or more** of these, your problem is much more serious and will require drastic steps.