

# How Do I Communicate with the Court?



Debtors may communicate with the judge assigned to their case but can only do so in certain ways and at certain times. When anyone talks, writes, or otherwise communicates directly with the judge about the case without the other parties involved in the case knowing what's communicated, this is considered **ex parte** communication. In fairness to everyone, **ex parte** communications are strictly prohibited.

## How can I speak to the judge assigned to my case?

To communicate with the judge assigned to your bankruptcy case, you must file a written motion or objection with the court, whichever is appropriate. The judge will not respond to personal letters or email, and you cannot speak to the judge unless you are before the court to be heard at a scheduled hearing.



## What makes a motion or objection so special?

Motions and objections are special because they appear on the public record and must be “served” upon all affected parties. This ensures all affected parties receive proper notice of any action that may be taken in a bankruptcy case.

- Once motions or objections are filed with the Bankruptcy Court, they become part of the public record. Documents on the public record may be viewed by any person or organization, with very few exceptions.
- You must send a copy of your motion or objection to the people that will be affected by your motion or objection after you have filed it. The act of sending these copies is called “service.”
- Because you have to send a copy of the motion or objection to all affected parties, motions and objections are not considered **ex-parte** communications. All parties officially know about the motion or objection.
- The Bankruptcy Court maintains the public record and ensures that “service” has been completed. This allows the Bankruptcy Court to verify that notice has been given to all affected parties of the action or actions you wish to take. There are no secrets in the Bankruptcy Court.

## What's wrong with a personal letter or email?

Personal letters and emails are not filed on the public record and may or may not be sent to all affected parties. Communicating with the Bankruptcy Court in this way does not provide the notice safeguards that filing a motion or objection on the public record and serving the motion or objection does. For this reason, personal letters and emails to the judge assigned to your bankruptcy case are strictly prohibited.

