

Resident Summary

Bankruptcy & Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)

Version: 03/2010

1. Introduction

If you have serious debt problems, you may be thinking about bankruptcy or an Individual Voluntary Arrangement. This summary details how this can impact your tenancy.

If you require information about bankruptcy and other forms of individual insolvency, you must seek independent advice. Some national agencies which offer advice are detailed at the end of this summary.

This summary applies to all residents of:

- Southern Housing Group Ltd,
- Southern Home Ownership Ltd

2. Paying your rent once you have become bankrupt or have a voluntary arrangement

You must continue to pay rent in the normal way once you have been declared bankrupt or have a voluntary arrangement.

3. What happens to my rent arrears when I become bankrupt or once a voluntary arrangement is made?

When a bankruptcy order or a voluntary arrangement is issued it means we cannot force you to repay any arrears or other debt that is included in the order or arrangement.

However, we can still ask a court for possession of your home because of that debt. Therefore, it is important that you continue to make payments to clear the arrears. Before you start making these payments you will need to get the agreement of the person appointed by

the court to handle your Bankruptcy Order or voluntary arrangement.

If you already have a Suspended or Postponed Possession Order in place when you become bankrupt, or when a voluntary arrangement is made, you will still need to clear your rent arrears in accordance with the order otherwise further action can be taken against you and you could lose your home.

4. What happens if I build up rent arrears after I become bankrupt or after a voluntary arrangement is made?

Those arrears are not covered by the Bankruptcy Order or voluntary arrangement. However, our usual arrears recovery process will apply and this will include arrears you owed before the Bankruptcy Order or voluntary arrangement was made.

5. What if I am a joint tenant?

If only one person in a joint tenancy has gone bankrupt (or a voluntary arrangement has been made against only one person) we can still pursue the other tenant for the debt and could seek possession of the home under our rent arrears policy and procedure.

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Where can I get independent advice and help?

Several agencies offer free help if you have debt problems and require information about bankruptcy and insolvency:

Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

Your local CAB is a good starting point for free advice. You can find your local CAB in the phone book or on the CAB website <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

National Debtline

National Debtline offers free, confidential, independent help over the phone. You can call them on 0808 8084 000 between 9am and 9pm Monday to Friday and from 9.30am to 1pm on Saturdays. Information is also available on their website <http://www.nationaldebtline.co.uk/>

Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS)

The CCCS has a helpline providing free and impartial advice to people with debt problems. You can call them on 0800 1381 111 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday. Information is available on their website

<http://www.cccs.co.uk/>

Further information

If you would like any more information on this or any of our other policies please contact us using the details at the bottom of this page.

Owner of the version: PST

Date of next review: TBC

Contact us

If you live anywhere in the UK except the Isle of Wight, phone us on **0300 303 1771**

If you live on the Isle of Wight, phone us on **0300 303 1772**

All residents

Service Centre opening hours
8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday

Email us at
servicecentre@shgroup.org.uk

Write to us at **Service Centre,**
Southern Housing Group,
PO Box 643, Horsham RH12 1XJ

Visit our website at
www.shgroup.org.uk

For help with translations, or if a large type, Braille or audio summary would be useful, please contact the Service Centre.

Arabic

لمساعدتك في الترجمة يرجى الاتصال بمركز الخدمة على هاتف 0300 303 1771

Bengali

অনুবাদ সাহায্য পেতে হলে সার্ভিস সেন্টারে 0300 303 1682 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

French

Si vous souhaitez recevoir de l'aide avec vos traductions, appelez le 0300 303 1771.

Somali

Wixii ah caawimo turjumaan ka soo wac Xarunta Adeegga telefoonka 0300 303 1771.

Spanish

Si necesita que le ayudemos con alguna traducción, llámenos al 0300 303 1771.

Turkish

Tercüme konusunda yardım için 0300 303 1683 'den Hizmet Merkezi'ni arayın.