



Bankruptcy Law. On Your Side.

GEORGIA BANKRUPTCY EXEMPTIONS

What You Can Keep When You File | Raza Bankruptcy Group

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 44-13-100) protects significant assets when you file bankruptcy. Most Georgia Chapter 7 filers keep **everything they own**. Here is exactly what is protected.

GEORGIA EXEMPTION AMOUNTS AT A GLANCE

EXEMPTION	PROTECTION AMOUNT	STATUTE
Homestead (primary residence)	Up to \$21,500 \$43,000 for married couples filing jointly	§ 44-13-100(a)(1)
Motor vehicle (one vehicle)	Up to \$5,000 in equity	§ 44-13-100(a)(3)
Household goods & furnishings	Up to \$5,000 total (max \$300 per item)	§ 44-13-100(a)(4)
Jewelry	Up to \$500	§ 44-13-100(a)(5)
Tools of the trade	Up to \$1,500	§ 44-13-100(a)(7)
Wildcard	Up to \$1,200 + up to \$10,000 of unused homestead	§ 44-13-100(a)(6)
Retirement accounts (401k, IRA, pension)	Fully protected	Federal & state law
Life insurance cash value	Protected up to certain limits	§ 33-25-11
Social Security & disability	Fully protected	Federal law
Unemployment & workers' comp	Fully protected	State & federal law
Veterans' benefits	Fully protected	Federal law
Health savings accounts (HSA)	Fully protected	Federal law
Alimony & child support	Protected to extent needed for support	§ 44-13-100(a)(2)

THE WILDCARD EXEMPTION — YOUR SECRET WEAPON

The wildcard exemption is the most flexible tool in Georgia bankruptcy. If you do **not** own a home — or if your home equity is below \$21,500 — you can apply up to **\$10,000 of unused homestead exemption to any property**, plus an additional \$1,200 base wildcard.

Use the wildcard to protect:

Cash in a bank account

A tax refund

Vehicle equity over \$5,000

Electronics, jewelry, or items over standard limits

A small business interest

IMPORTANT: WHAT NOT TO DO BEFORE FILING

■ Do NOT transfer property to family or friends

Transfers within 2 years of filing can be reversed by the trustee as fraudulent transfers

■ Do NOT cash out retirement accounts

Retirement accounts are fully protected — liquidating them to pay creditors is almost always the wrong move

■ Do NOT make large payments to one creditor

Preferential payments within 90 days of filing can be clawed back

■ Do NOT run up credit card balances

Charges made near the time of filing may not be dischargeable

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Exemption amounts are current as of 2025. This cheat sheet is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.