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Answer:

Federal law (28 U.S.C. §1930) requires the payment of a fee to file a [bankruptcy petition](#)ⁱ and also, in limited circumstances, permits such fees to be waived or paid via installments.

In a [chapter 7](#)ⁱ case voluntarily filed by an individual, if the [debtor](#)ⁱ's income is less than 150% of the [federal poverty level](#) relative to the debtor's family size, and the debtor is unable to pay the fee in installments, the Court may waive payment of the fee. A fee waiver may be requested by filing a completed [Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived](#). If the Court denies the request, the debtor may be required to pay the fee in full or via installment payments.

An individual filing a voluntary case (or married spouses voluntarily filing a joint case) under any chapter who is unable to pay the full fee at the time of filing may request the fee be paid via installments by filing an [Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments](#).

FAQ Category:

Filing without an Attorney

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