

Waiting for The Light to go on?

For a more detailed explanation of Chapter 13 vs. chapter 7, call the Law Office of T. Kevin Dougherty at 831-783-3440 and make an appointment. Our first consultation is free of charge.

Jack owns a business in California. It's a large business, and Jack always reports his company's federal payroll tax liability to the evil IRS. However, Jack pays only part of his payroll taxes. He does not have enough money to pay ALL his bills, so he withholds payroll taxes from his employees' pay, but uses that money to pay other bills.

One day the evil IRS guy says to Jack, "Where is the tax money?" Jack responds, "My business isn't making much money. I had to pay the supply guys and the utilities. I'll try to pay you as soon as business picks up."

This is not a good answer. The evil IRS guy does not care for Jack's attitude. Jack goes to prison. Yep, prison. Jack was convicted on 107 counts of criminal liability. Jack learned that it did *not* matter that he was too broke to pay the IRS, it *did* matter that he willfully failed to pay his taxes.

The moral of this true story? When faced with bankruptcy, you cannot take care of things yourself. You're not expected to. There are too many variables outside of your control. Your creditors, the evil IRS, your family, your stress levels, even the process of filing bankruptcy is a path that requires legal expertise.

Jack's was a failing business (couldn't pay his bills). The "light should have gone on" for Jack. The sooner he had gotten advice the better his chances and his options would have been for avoiding the slammer. No, we do not have debtors' prison anymore, and Jack's story is a complex one. Everyone has their own story, their own hard times.

If you are not able to pay your bills and have considered filing bankruptcy, please also consider this: don't wait for the light to go on. If you are behind on payments, worried about medical expenses, or can't pay your taxes, the light is already flashing you in your face.

Make an appointment with attorney **T. Kevin Dougherty** and get advice for your best course of action.