

## Checklist

### What you can do when debt becomes a problem

✓	Short description	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Use credit counseling</b>	Contact a credit counseling service if you have questions or problems. Counselors can help you find solutions and get your debt problems under control.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Contact creditors</b>	Get in touch with creditors early so that debt collection fees, default interest and other costs do not add to your debt burden. Often, it is possible to find a mutually beneficial solution.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Don't take on new debt</b>	Avoid incurring new debt, which would make the situation even worse.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Get a clear picture of your finances</b>	A budget planner helps you keep track of your income and expenses and spot a looming deficit (or surplus) early on.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Increase income, reduce spending</b>	Take up opportunities to increase your income, for example find a sideline to earn extra money or work overtime and find out whether you are eligible for welfare benefits or tax relief. In addition, try to spend less and live a more modest lifestyle.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>List your debt</b>	Make a list with all your outstanding debt, including creditors and deadlines. This will help you plan upcoming repayments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Make a repayment plan</b>	Take your budget plan and the list of outstanding debt to make a plan for your monthly repayments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Actively seek a solution</b>	Once you have made a solid repayment plan, show it to your creditors. If they accept the plan, it is likely that court proceedings can be avoided. If the creditors do not accept the plan, or if you fail to fulfill it, a solution through private bankruptcy proceedings will be sought.