Debt Warning Signs

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Put a check in front of each sentence if you've ever found yourself in any of these situations.

_____1. Routinely spend more than you earn.

_____2. Skip payments on some bills to pay others.

_____3. Use credit cards to buy things you used to pay with cash (groceries, electric bill).

_____4. At, or over the limit on credit cards and make only minimum payments on cards.

_____5. More of your total income goes to pay off debts, which doesn't leave enough for basic needs such as food, clothing, insurance, the house payment or rent.

_____6. Have more than two or three major credit cards.

_____7. Use overnight mail or FedEx to get payments to creditors.

_____8. Transfer balances from one card to another instead of making a monthly payment.

_____9. Use cash advances to pay bills or make payments on other cards.

____10. Written a check hoping that you'll be able to cover it by the time it clears your bank.

____11. Tried to make a purchase with your credit card and it was declined or you were denied credit or a loan.

____12. Creditors or collectors were calling you about overdue bills.

____13. You lie to or argue with your spouse or other family member about your spending or hide credit card statements from family members.

These are **debt warning signs**. If you've experienced **five or less** of these, you may have caught the problem before it's unmanageable, but you must act immediately to change your spending habits. If you've experienced **six or more** of these, your problem is much more serious and will require more drastic steps.

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