

From: Christian Cooper
To: [RulesCommittee Secretary](#)
Subject: Suggested Change to Official Form 122A-1 (Bankruptcy)
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9:19:39 PM

To: Rebecca A. Womeldorf, Secretary Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

Hello,

I run the Bankruptcy Self-Help Desk in Downtown Los Angeles, where I assist hundreds of self-represented litigants each year. I have a simple suggested change to Official Form 122A-1 that would save pro se debtors considerable time in preparing their Chapter 7 petitions.

Specifically, I recommend adding the following text to the end of line 14a: **“Do NOT fill out or file Form 122A-2.”** Line 14a would thus read: **“Line 12b is less than or equal to line 13. On the top of page 1, check box 1, *There is no presumption of abuse.* Go to Part 3. Do NOT fill out or file Form 122A-2.”**

Although there are instructions underneath the signature line in Part 3, in my experience, many pro se debtors miss those instructions. As a result, many debtors who check line 14a (i.e., whose current monthly income is less than or equal to the median income) needlessly fill out and file Form 122A-2. That process can take hours, as debtors scour the internet for the IRS figures and other information needed to fill out that form.

Regards,

Christian Cooper
Senior Staff Attorney
Public Counsel

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