

# Index

## • A •

advance fee loans, 58  
aggressive creditors, paying, 278  
American Academy of Estate Planning, 270  
American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), 273–274  
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 270  
annual percentage rate (APR), credit cards, 256  
Application for Automatic Extension to File (taxes), 214  
assets, seizing  
  child support, 206  
  IRS, 216, 230  
  overview, 126  
The Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies, 112  
attorney general, rights violation by debt collector, 138  
auto insurance, 76–77  
automatic stay, bankruptcy, 168

## • B •

bad debt/good debt, 17–18, 248–249  
bank loans  
  debt consolidation loans, 99–100  
  medical bills, 203  
Bankrate.com Web site, 267, 274  
bankruptcy  
  automatic stay, 168  
  budget, 53  
  car repossession, 168–170  
  Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy, 14, 170  
  Chapter 13 reorganization  
    bankruptcy, 14, 169–170  
  child support, 210  
  consumer bankruptcy attorneys, 274  
  debt collectors, 129

  filing for, 14  
  foreclosure, 155  
  IRS, 222–223  
  medical bills, 203  
  reasons for filing, 11  
  taxes, 217, 222–223  
  utilities, 194  
behavior of debt collectors, 15–16  
borrowing money  
  foreclosure, 149  
  against home, 279–280  
  mortgage, 149  
  paying off debt with, 13  
*Bottom Line/Personal* newsletter, 267  
*Bottom Line/Retirement* newsletter, 267  
breaching the peace, 159  
Brown, Ray  
  *Home Buying For Dummies*, 3rd Edition, 267  
  *House Selling For Dummies*, 2nd Edition, 267  
Bucci, Stephen R. (*Credit Repair Kit For Dummies*), 254  
budget  
  bankruptcy, 53  
  children, 12  
  credit counseling, 53  
  creditors, negotiating with, 53  
  debt settlement, 130  
  debts, consolidating with, 53  
  deficit, 51–54  
  expenses, cutting, 52  
  family, 51  
  foreclosure, 148–149  
  improving finances, 21–22  
  increasing income, 53  
  IRS, 219  
  mortgage, 148–149  
  negotiating with creditors, 88–89  
  not using, 278  
  overview, 11–12  
  percentages, 54  
  prioritizing, 54–55  
  progress checking, 60–61  
  reasons for, 50

budget (*continued*)  
recovery, 265–266  
student loans, 233  
surplus, 57  
taxes, 219

*Buying a Car For Dummies* (Sclar), 267

## • C •

Caher, James P. and John M. (*Personal Bankruptcy Laws For Dummies*), 53, 170, 194, 204, 223

canceling student loan, 242–244  
car payments, falling behind on, 277–278

car repossession  
attorney, 170–172  
bankruptcy, 168–170  
buying back car, 162–163  
curing the default, 158  
giving back voluntarily, 168  
introduction, 157–158  
laws, 158  
negotiations, 164–166  
paying deficiency, 160–162  
personal items in car, 161  
reinstating car loan, 163–164  
rights as car owner, 158–159  
selling car, 166–167

Career Builder, 79

*Career Guide to Industries*, 78

certificate of credit counseling  
completion, 169, 194

certified public accountant (CPA), 268–269

Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy  
car loan, 170  
introduction, 14  
taxes, 223

Chapter 13 reorganization bankruptcy  
car loan, 169–170  
introduction, 14  
taxes, 223

charged off debt, debt collectors, 135

charities, utilities, 189

*Cheapskate Monthly*, 275

child support  
asset sale, 209  
asset seizure, 206

attorney contact, 208

bankruptcy, 210

borrowing, 209

budget, 209

collection agency, 207–208

credit report, 207

CSE (Child Support Enforcement)  
program, 205

debt consolidation, 209

interception of income, 206

IRS, 207

license suspension, 206

liens, 206

missing, avoiding, 209–210

modification, 210–211

nonpayment, consequences of,  
205–208

passport denial/suspension, 206

priority, 56, 204

temporary modification of order, 210

wage garnishment, 208

churches

medical bills, 202

utilities, 189

closed-end installment credit, 251

collection agencies. *See also* debt  
settlement

allowable activities, 125–127

asking not to be contacted, 134–135

asset seizure, 126

bankruptcy, 129

behavior of, 15–16

budget, 130

calling place, 124

calling time, 124

charged off debt, 135

child support, 207–208

credit history clean up, 131

creditor, 133

disputing debt, 14, 133–134

employers, 124

expenses, 128

family, 124

FDCPA, 14, 123

first impressions, 122–123

friends, 124

liens, 16, 127

mail, 124

medical bills, 198

- negotiations, budget, 130
- paying the debt, 129
- payment plans, 133
- priority, 56
- proof, asking for, 128
- restrictions on, 123–125
- rights violations, 137–139
- state laws, 15
- statute of limitations, 135–136
- strategies, 122–123
- summons, 126
- threats, 124
- unable to pay, 134
- unsecure debt, 16
- verification of debt, 128
- wage garnishment, 126
- written agreement, 131–132
- compulsive spending, Debtors
  - Anonymous, 11
- consolidating debt. *See* debt consolidation
- consumer bankruptcy attorneys, 274
- consumer debt, percentage, 54
- coupons
  - entertainment bill, 72
  - food bill, 69
- CPA (certified public accountant), 268–269
- credit. *See also* rebuilding credit
  - installment, 19
  - managing, 266
  - revolving, 19
  - secured, 19, 249–250
  - unsecured, 19, 249–250
- credit cards
  - APR (annual percentage rate), 256
  - balance calculation method, 256
  - budget surplus, 57
  - collateral, 257
  - continuing to use, 279
  - fees, 256
  - grace period, 256
  - limit, 257
  - medical bill payment, 203
  - period rate, 256
  - rebuilding credit, 255–257
  - secured cards, 257
  - taxes, 214–215
  - transferring balances, 97–99
- credit counseling agencies
  - The Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies, 112
  - budget, 53, 110
  - certificate of credit counseling
    - completion, 169, 194
  - comparing, 111
  - creditors, 115–116
  - debt management plan, 116
  - debt management plan,
    - managing, 117
  - debt settlement firms, 13–14
  - for-profit, 280
  - information shared, 114–115
  - locating, 111–112
  - The National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 112
  - overview, 13–14, 109
  - questions to ask, 112–114
  - rip offs, 119
  - selecting, 110–114
- credit history
  - debt collectors, 131
  - employers, 20
  - landlords, 21
  - life insurance, 20
  - rebuilding credit, 253–254
  - security clearance, 21
- Credit Repair Kit For Dummies* (Bucci), 254
- The Credit Repair Kit* (Ventura), 254
- credit report
  - accounts that don't belong, 253
  - child support, 207
  - importance of, 28–29
  - incomplete information, 254
  - incorrect identifying
    - information, 254
  - incorrect information, 254
  - old information, 254
  - ordering copies, 10, 27–28
- credit score
  - introduction, 10
  - rebuilding credit, 254
  - reporting sources, 29
- credit.com Web site, 274

creditors. *See also* negotiating with creditors

- aggressive, paying as a result, 278
- contacting for negotiating, 91–92
- credit counseling agencies, 115–116
- cut deals with, 12–13
- debt collectors, 133
- evaluation criteria, 251–252
- interest-only payments, 12
- lowering monthly payments, 12
- promises you can't keep, 279
- reducing interest rate, 12

curing the default

- car repossession, 158
- mortgage, 153

## • D •

DA (Debtors Anonymous)

- compulsive spending, 11
- description, 42
- emotional spending, 26
- Web site, 25

debt

- disputing, 14
- good debt/bad debt, 17–18
- ignoring, reasons not to, 277
- listing, negotiating with creditors, 86–87
- paying, debt collectors, 129
- reducing rather than saving, 52
- verification of, 128
- written proof, 14

debt collectors. *See* collection agencies

debt consolidation

- bank loans, 96, 99–100, 99–103
- budget, 53
- companies that pay off creditors, 107
- counseling firms that lend, 106–107
- finance company loans, 107
- fixed-rate debt, 96
- foreclosure, 149
- home equity loans, 100–102
- interest rate, 96
- introduction, 13
- life insurance policy, 96, 104
- loans with upfront fees, 107
- mortgage, 149

- mortgage refinance, 102–103
- new debt, 96
- retirement account, 96, 104–106
- secured loans, 99
- student loans, 241–242
- total monthly payment, 96
- transferring credit card debt, 96, 97–99
- unsecured loans, 99
- variable-rate debt, 96
- when to use, 95–96

debt negotiation firms, 117

debt settlement

- budget, 130
- IRS, 129, 132
- written agreement, 131–132

debt settlement firms

- charges, 119
- claims, 118
- compared to credit counseling agencies, 13–14, 117
- loans, 119
- rip offs, 119

Debtors Anonymous. *See* DA

*Debt-Proof Living* newsletter, 275

DebtSmart Web site, 275

deferment of student loan, 238–239

Department of Education (DOE), 233

depressions, signs of, 41

Direct PLUS Loan, 236

discounts on medical bills, 201–202

disputing debt, debt collectors, 14, 133–134

## • E •

Eldercare Locator, 190

emotional spending, 26

employers

- credit history, 20
- debt collectors, 124

Equal Credit Opportunity Act, 260

Equifax, credit report, 10, 27

equity, 100

estate-planning attorney, 269

evaluation criteria, credit

- character, 19, 252
- collateral, 19, 252
- financial capacity, 19, 252

eviction  
 disputing amount owed, 184  
 fighting, 184  
 introduction, 182–183  
 money owed, 186–187  
 notice to pay, 183  
 notice to vacate, 183  
 removal from home, 185–186  
 settle with landlord, 185  
 summons, 184–185  
 warning, 183–184

expenses  
 categories, 30–31  
 cutting, 52  
 debt collectors, 128  
 fixed, 30  
 IRS, 219  
 periodic, 31  
 taxes, 219  
 variable, 31

Experian, credit report, 10, 27

extended repayment plan on student loans  
 Direct Loans, 234  
 FFEL loans, 235

extension on taxes, 214

## • **F** •

FDCPA (Fair Debt Collection Practices Act)  
 child support collection agencies, 208  
 debt collectors, 14, 123

Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL), 233

Federal income taxes, priority, 56

Federal student loans, priority, 56

Federal Trade Commission (FTC), rights violation by debt collector, 137–138

FFEL PLUS Loan, 236

FICO score  
 introduction, 10  
 rebuilding credit, 254  
 reporting sources, 29

finance company loans, 58, 107

financial advisors  
 American Academy of Estate Planning, 270  
 American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 270  
 CPA (certified public accountant), 268–269  
 estate-planning attorney, 269  
 financial planner, 269  
 The Financial Planning Association, 270  
 finding, 270  
 Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, 270  
 insurance broker or agent, 269–270  
 financial information, negotiating with creditors, 90–91

financial planner, 269  
 The Financial Planning Association, 270

first lien holder, 144

fixed expenses, 30

forbearance on student loans, 239

foreclosure, mortgage  
 assumable mortgage, 152  
 bankruptcy, 155  
 borrowing money, 149  
 budget, 148–149  
 debt consolidation, 149  
 deed home back to lender, 155  
 judicial, 147  
 lawyer, 152–154  
 loss mitigation department, 148  
 negotiating with lender, 150–151  
 nonjudicial, 147  
 refinancing, 151–152  
 rent out home, 152  
 scams, 156  
 selling home, 152, 154  
 statutory, 147  
 timeline, 144–148

for-profit credit counseling agencies, 280

401(k), borrowing from, 104–106

freezing credit cards, 279

friends  
 debt collectors, 124  
 job hunting, 80

fritter factor, spending, 31

*Frugal Living For Dummies* (Taylor-Hough), 267

FTC (Federal Trade Commission), rights violation by debt collector, 137–138

## • G •

goal setting, 263–265

good debt/bad debt, 17–18, 248–249

graduated repayment plan on student loans

Direct Loans, 235

FFEL loans, 235

Griswold, Robert S. (*Real Estate Investing For Dummies*), 268

## • H •

hard money investor, 152

health insurance, 56, 77–78

HELOC (home equity line of credit), 101–103

high-risk loans, 280

*Home Buying For Dummies* (Tyson and Brown), 3rd Edition, 267

Home Equity Loan Consumer Protection Act, 261

home equity loans

HELOC (home equity line of credit), 101–103

medical bills, 203

predatory lenders, 101

pros and cons, 100–102

taxes, 215

homeowner's insurance, 56, 75–76

*House Selling For Dummies* (Tyson and Brown), 2nd Edition, 267

housing expense

percentage, 54

reducing, homeowners, 67

reducing, renters, 67

HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), mortgage, 145

## • I •

ignoring debt, reasons not to, 277

income

compared to spending, 10

debt settlement, 129, 132

income and spending worksheet, 33–35

increasing, 53

interception, child support, 206

income-contingent repayment plan on student loans (Direct Loans), 235

income-sensitive repayment plan on student loans (FFEL loans), 235

increasing income

budget, 53

business scams, 84

at current job, 78–79

freelancing, 83

at new job, 79–82

second job, 82–83

Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, 270

installment agreement, IRS

Collection Information Statement, 219

less than \$10,000, 218

more than \$10,000, less than \$25,000, 218–219

more than \$25,000, 219

overview, 216

payment amount, 217

payroll deduction, 217

installment credit

closed-end, 251

description, 19

open-end, 251

insurance

auto, 76–77

health, 77–78

homeowner's, 75–76

MBAA (Medical Billing Advocates of America), 200

medical bill nonpayment, 200

medical bill payment, 199

insurance broker or agent, 269–270

interest rate  
 reducing, 12  
 transferring credit card balances,  
 97–98  
 interest, taxes, 215  
 interest-only payments, creditors, 12  
*Investing For Dummies*, 4th Edition  
 (Tyson), 268  
 IRS. *See also* installment agreement,  
 IRS; levy on assets, IRS; taxes  
 appealing decisions, 226–227  
 bankruptcy, 217, 222–223  
 CAP (Collection Appeals  
 Program), 226  
 CDP (Collection Due Process), 226  
 child support, 207  
 Collection Information  
 Statement, 219  
 debt settlement, 129, 132  
 installment agreement, 216, 217–220  
 less than \$10,000, 218  
 more than \$10,000, less than  
 \$25,000, 218–219  
 more than \$25,000, 219  
 Notice of Taxes Due and Demand for  
 Payment, 216  
 OIC (Offer in Compromise),  
 216, 220–222  
 seizing assets, 216  
 seized assets, retrieving, 230  
 settling debt for less, 88  
 TAS (Taxpayer Advocate  
 Service), 229  
 tax liens, 224–227

## • J •

job hunting  
 employment agencies, 81–82  
 freelancing, 83  
 friends, 80  
 job fairs, 81  
 networking, 81  
 newspaper listings, 81  
 opportunities, 80–81  
 research, 79–80  
 second job, 82–83  
 Web sites, 80

judgment proof, 88  
 judicial foreclosure, mortgage, 147

## • K •

*Kiplinger's Personal Finance  
 Magazine*, 267

## • L •

landlords  
 credit history, 21  
 negotiating with, 175–176  
 relationship with, 174  
*The Laws of Money: 5 Timeless Secrets  
 to Get Out and Stay out of  
 Financial Trouble* (Orman), 276

lawyers  
 car repossession, 170–172  
 child support, 208  
 consumer bankruptcy attorneys, 274  
 estate-planning attorney, 269  
 mortgage, 152–153

lease  
 breaking, 177–178  
 co-tenants, 180  
 definition, 173  
 termination, 176–177

levy on assets, IRS  
 auction, 228  
 auction, minimum bid amount, 228  
 overview, 216

license suspension, child support, 206  
 liens

child support, 206  
 debt collectors, 16, 127  
 lien holders, 144  
 perfect a lien, 171  
 tax liens, 224–227

life insurance  
 borrowing against, 104  
 credit history, 20

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy  
 Assistance Program), 189, 190

listing debts, negotiating with  
 creditors, 86–87

living expenses, budget, 55

## loans

- advance fee, 58
- car title, 59
- co-signed by friends/relatives, 280
- finance company, 58
- high-risk, 280
- home equity, 100–102
- pawnshop, 59
- payday, 58
- rebuilding credit, 258–259
- refinancing mortgage, 102–103
- tax refund, 59
- upfront fees, 107
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), 189, 190

## • M •

- managing credit, 266
- managing money, tips for, 266–268
- Managing Your Money Online For Dummies* (Sindell), 268
- Medicaid, applying for, 202
- Medical Billing Advocates of America (MBAA), 200
- medical bills
  - accuracy, insuring, 198
  - accuracy, reviewing for, 199–200
  - assistance, 199
  - auto accident, 202
  - bank loans for, 203
  - bankruptcy, 203
  - billing fraud, 199
  - churches, 202
  - credit cards, 203
  - debt collectors, 198
  - discounts, 199, 201–202
  - home equity loans, 203
  - installment plan, 202–203
  - insurance company, 199
  - Medicaid, applying for, 202
  - mistakes in, 199
  - priority, 56
  - refusal of doctor to treat, 198
  - risks of not paying, 197–198
  - social service organizations, 202

mental health professionals, getting help, 42

*The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke* (Orman), 276

Monster.com Career Advice section, 79

monthly payments, reducing, asking creditors, 12

monthly spending
 

- compared to income, 10
- monthly spending and income worksheet, 62–64

## mortgage

- assumable, 152
- budget, 148–149
- catching up, 148–149
- foreclosure, judicial, 147
- foreclosure, nonjudicial, 147
- foreclosure, statutory, 147
- foreclosure timeline, 144–148
- grace period, 144
- HUD, 145
- lawyer, 152–153, 154
- lender, loss mitigation
  - department, 148
- lender, negotiating with, 150–151
- Notice of Acceleration, 145
- Notice of Default, 145
- Notice of Delinquency, 145
- refinancing, 102–103, 151–152
- renting out home, 152
- selling home, 154
- MSNmoney.com Web site, 267

## • N •

- National Consumer Law Center, 275
- National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC), 276
- NCLC Guide to Surviving Debt*, 275
- negotiating with creditors
  - basic rules, 89
  - budget, 53
  - budget review, 88–89
  - car repossession, avoiding, 164–166
  - contacting creditors, 91–92
  - financial information, 90–91
  - landlord, 175–176

- listing debts, 86–87
  - mortgage, 149
  - mortgage lender, foreclosure, 150–151
  - overview, 85
  - planning, 86
  - prioritizing, 87–88
  - secured debt, 87
  - unsecured debt, 87
  - written agreement, 92–93
  - NELRP (Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program), 244
  - NFCC (National Foundation for Credit Counseling), 276
  - The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom* (Orman), 276
  - non-installment credit, 251
  - nonjudicial foreclosure, mortgage, 147
  - Notice of Acceleration, mortgage, 145
  - Notice of Default, mortgage, 145
  - Notice of Delinquency, mortgage, 145
  - Notice of Taxes Due and Demand for Payment, 216
  - notice to pay, eviction, 183
  - notice to vacate, eviction, 183
  - Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP), 244
- O •**
- Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 78
  - OIC (Offer in Compromise), IRS
    - approval, 222
    - initiating, 220–221
    - IRS decision, 221
    - overview, 216
    - reasons for, 221
    - rejection, 222
  - open-end installment credit, 251
  - Orman, Suze (financial advisor/author), 276
- P •**
- partner, support, 43
  - passport denial/suspension, child support, 206
  - past due rent, 175
  - pawnshop loan, 59
  - payday loans, 58
  - paying debt, debt collectors, 129
  - payment plans
    - debt collectors, 133
    - utilities, 191–192
  - payroll deduction, tax payments, 217
  - penalties on taxes, 215
  - percentages for budgets, 54
  - periodic expenses, 31
  - Perkins loan, 234
  - Personal Bankruptcy Laws For Dummies* (James P. Caher and John M. Caher), 53, 170, 194, 204, 223
  - Personal Finance For Dummies* (Tyson), 39, 268
  - PLUS loans, repayment, 236
  - positive attitude, 38–39
  - prioritizing budget items
    - child support, 56, 204
    - Federal income taxes, 56
    - Federal student loans, 56
    - health insurance, 56
    - homeowner's insurance, 56
    - medical bills, 56
  - negotiating with creditors, 87–88
  - overview, 54–55
  - property taxes, 56
  - state income taxes, 56
  - unsecured debt, 55–56
  - promises to creditors you can't keep, 279
  - property taxes, priority, 56
  - PUCs (Public Utility Commissions), 187
- Q •**
- questions about financial situation, 24–25
- R •**
- Real Estate Investing For Dummies* (Tyson and Griswold), 268
  - rebuilding credit
    - credit cards, 255–257
    - credit history, 253–254
    - Equal Credit Opportunity Act, 260

- rebuilding credit (*continued*)
  - FICO score, 254
  - future, 259
  - Home Equity Loan Consumer Protection Act, 261
  - introduction, 20–21
  - loans, 258–259
  - overview, 252–253
  - rights, 262
  - rip offs, 259–262
  - savings account, 254–255
  - Truth in Lending Act, 261
- reducing spending
  - clothing, 73
  - deals, 66
  - entertainment, 71–72
  - food bill, 68–70
  - housing, 66–67
  - insurance, 75–78
  - personal grooming, 72
  - phone costs, 73–74
  - prescription drugs, 74–75
  - transportation, 70–71
  - utility bills, 67–68
- reestablishing utilities, 194–195
- refinancing, mortgage, 102–103, 151–152
- relationship with money, 25–26
- relatives, debt collectors, 124
- rent
  - eviction, disputing amount owed, 184
  - eviction, fighting, 184
  - eviction, money owed, 186–187
  - eviction, removal from home, 185–186
  - eviction, settlement with landlord, 185
  - eviction, summons, 184–185
  - eviction, warning, 183–184
  - lease, breaking, 177–178
  - lease termination, 176–177
  - past due, 175
  - reducing debt, 67
  - roommate, 179–182
  - security deposit, 186
  - subleasing, 178–179
  - written agreement, 176
- repossession. *See* car repossession

- retirement account, borrowing from, 104–106
- revolving credit, 19
- rights violations, debt collectors, 137–139
- roommates, 180–182

## • S •

- savings account
  - as financial safety net, 21, 265
  - percentage, 54
  - rebuilding credit, 254–255
  - reducing debt, 52
- scams, foreclosure, 156
- Sclar, Deanna (*Buying a Car For Dummies*), 267
- second lien holder, 144
- secured debt
  - collateral, 55
  - compared to unsecured debt, 55
  - debt consolidation loans, 99
  - description, 19
  - examples, 250
  - negotiating with creditors, 87
  - priority, 55
- security clearance, credit history, 21
- security deposits, 186
- selling car, 166–167
- selling home, mortgage, 154
- setbacks, handling, 39–41
- setting goals, 263–265
- signs of depression, 41
- Sindell, Kathleen (*Managing Your Money Online For Dummies*), 268
- social service organizations, medical bills, 202
- spending. *See also* reducing spending
  - emotional, 26
  - fritter factor, 31
  - income and spending worksheet, 33–35
- spending compared to income
  - expense categories, 30–31
  - financial bottom line, 32
  - income and spending worksheet, 33–35
  - materials for exercise, 30
- spending plan, 11

spouse, support, 43  
 Stafford Loan (student) deferment, 239  
 standard repayment plan on student loans  
     Direct Loans, 234  
     FFEL loans, 235  
 state income taxes, priority, 56  
 statute of limitations, debt collectors, 135–136  
 statutory foreclosure, mortgage, 147  
 student loans  
     budget, 233  
     canceling, 242–244  
     consolidation, 241–242  
     default, consequences of, 237  
     default, introduction, 236–237  
     default, recovering from, 240–241  
     deferment, 238–239  
     Direct Consolidated Loans, 233  
     Direct PLUS Loans, 233  
     Direct Subsidized Loans, 233  
     Direct Unsubsidized Loans, 233  
     extended repayment plan (Direct Loan), 234  
     extended repayment plan (FFEL Loan), 235  
     FFEL (Federal Family Education Loan Program), 233  
     forbearance, 239  
     graduated repayment plan (Direct Loan), 235  
     graduated repayment plan (FFEL Loan), 235  
     income-contingent repayment plan (Direct Loan), 235  
     income-sensitive repayment plan (FFEL Loan), 235  
     Perkins loan, 234  
     PLUS loan repayment, 236  
     preparations for payback, 232–233  
     repayment plans, 234–236  
     standard repayment plan (Direct Loan), 234  
     standard repayment plan (FFEL loan), 235  
 subleasing apartment  
     lease agreement, 178  
     screening candidates, 178–179  
     written agreement, 179

success, celebrating, 40  
 summons, debt collectors, 126  
 support  
     books, 42  
     DA (Debtors Anonymous), 42  
     friends/family, 42  
     mental health professionals, 42  
     partner, 43–44  
     spouse, 43–44  
 surplus in budget, 57

## • T •

TAS (Taxpayer Advocate Service), 229  
 Taylor-Hough, Deborah (*Frugal Living For Dummies*), 267  
 tax refund loan, 59  
 taxes. *See also* installment agreement, IRS; IRS  
     asset seizure, 216  
     bankruptcy, 217, 222–223  
     budget, 219  
     credit cards, 214–215  
     extension, 214  
     home equity loan, 215  
     interest, 215  
     IRS, 219  
     liens, 224–227  
     Notice of Taxes Due and Demand for Payment, 216  
     penalties, 215  
     pressure to pay, 216  
 Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), 229  
 third lien holder, 144  
 threats, debt collectors, 124  
 TILA (Truth in Lending Act), 153, 261  
 transferring credit card balances  
     balance transfer fee, 98  
     interest rates, 97–98  
     monthly payment calculation, 98  
 transportation  
     percentage, 54  
     reducing spending, 70–71  
 TransUnion, credit report, 10, 27  
 Tyson, Eric  
     *Home Buying For Dummies*, 3rd Edition, 267  
     *House Selling For Dummies*, 2nd Edition, 267

Tyson, Eric (*continued*)  
*Investing For Dummies*, 4th  
Edition, 268  
*Personal Finance For Dummies*,  
39, 268  
*Real Estate Investing For  
Dummies*, 268

### • U •

unsecured debt  
collectors, 16  
compared to secured debt, 55  
debt consolidation loans, 99  
description, 19  
examples, 250  
negotiating with creditors, 87  
priority, 55–56  
U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development (HUD),  
mortgage, 145  
utilities  
assistance, 188–189  
bankruptcy, 194  
payment plan, 191–192  
percentage, 54  
PUC appeal, 192–193  
reducing bills, 67–68  
reestablishing, 194–195  
termination, avoiding, 188–194

### • V •

variable expenses, 31  
Ventura, John (*The Credit Repair  
Kit*), 254  
verification of debt, 128  
vices, 71

### • W •

wage garnishment  
child support, 208  
debt collectors, 126  
unsecured debt, 55  
*The Wall Street Journal's Career  
Journal*, 79  
worksheets, monthly spending and  
income, 62–64  
written agreement  
debt settlement, 131–132  
negotiation with creditors, 92–93  
rent payments, 176  
sublease, 179  
written proof of debt, 14  
*The Writing Center at Rensselaer  
Polytechnic Institute*, 79