

United States Code Annotated
Title 11. Bankruptcy (Refs & Annos)
Chapter 5. Creditors, the Debtor, and the Estate (Refs & Annos)
Subchapter III. The Estate (Refs & Annos)

11 U.S.C.A. § 541

§ 541. Property of the estate

Effective: December 19, 2014

[Currentness](#)

(a) The commencement of a case under [section 301](#), [302](#), or [303](#) of this title creates an estate. Such estate is comprised of all the following property, wherever located and by whomever held:

(1) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c)(2) of this section, all legal or equitable interests of the debtor in property as of the commencement of the case.

(2) All interests of the debtor and the debtor's spouse in community property as of the commencement of the case that is--

(A) under the sole, equal, or joint management and control of the debtor; or

(B) liable for an allowable claim against the debtor, or for both an allowable claim against the debtor and an allowable claim against the debtor's spouse, to the extent that such interest is so liable.

(3) Any interest in property that the trustee recovers under [section 329\(b\)](#), [363\(n\)](#), [543](#), [550](#), [553](#), or [723](#) of this title.

(4) Any interest in property preserved for the benefit of or ordered transferred to the estate under [section 510\(c\)](#) or [551](#) of this title.

(5) Any interest in property that would have been property of the estate if such interest had been an interest of the debtor on the date of the filing of the petition, and that the debtor acquires or becomes entitled to acquire within 180 days after such date--

(A) by bequest, devise, or inheritance;

(B) as a result of a property settlement agreement with the debtor's spouse, or of an interlocutory or final divorce decree; or

(C) as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or of a death benefit plan.

(6) Proceeds, product, offspring, rents, or profits of or from property of the estate, except such as are earnings from services performed by an individual debtor after the commencement of the case.

(7) Any interest in property that the estate acquires after the commencement of the case.

(b) Property of the estate does not include--

(1) any power that the debtor may exercise solely for the benefit of an entity other than the debtor;

(2) any interest of the debtor as a lessee under a lease of nonresidential real property that has terminated at the expiration of the stated term of such lease before the commencement of the case under this title, and ceases to include any interest of the debtor as a lessee under a lease of nonresidential real property that has terminated at the expiration of the stated term of such lease during the case;

(3) any eligibility of the debtor to participate in programs authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.](#); [42 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.](#)), or any accreditation status or State licensure of the debtor as an educational institution;

(4) any interest of the debtor in liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons to the extent that--

(A)(i) the debtor has transferred or has agreed to transfer such interest pursuant to a farmout agreement or any written agreement directly related to a farmout agreement; and

(ii) but for the operation of this paragraph, the estate could include the interest referred to in clause (i) only by virtue of [section 365](#) or [544\(a\)\(3\)](#) of this title; or

(B)(i) the debtor has transferred such interest pursuant to a written conveyance of a production payment to an entity that does not participate in the operation of the property from which such production payment is transferred; and

(ii) but for the operation of this paragraph, the estate could include the interest referred to in clause (i) only by virtue of [section 365](#) or [542](#) of this title;

(5) funds placed in an education individual retirement account (as defined in [section 530\(b\)\(1\) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986](#)) not later than 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, but--

(A) only if the designated beneficiary of such account was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable year for which funds were placed in such account;

(B) only to the extent that such funds--

(i) are not pledged or promised to any entity in connection with any extension of credit; and

(ii) are not excess contributions (as described in [section 4973\(e\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986); and

(C) in the case of funds placed in all such accounts having the same designated beneficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than 365 days before such date, only so much of such funds as does not exceed \$6,825 [originally “\$5,000”, adjusted effective April 1, 2019]¹;

(6) funds used to purchase a tuition credit or certificate or contributed to an account in accordance with [section 529\(b\)\(1\)\(A\) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986](#) under a qualified State tuition program (as defined in section 529(b)(1) of such Code) not later than 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, but--

(A) only if the designated beneficiary of the amounts paid or contributed to such tuition program was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable year for which funds were paid or contributed;

(B) with respect to the aggregate amount paid or contributed to such program having the same designated beneficiary, only so much of such amount as does not exceed the total contributions permitted under section 529(b)(6) of such Code with respect to such beneficiary, as adjusted beginning on the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title by the annual increase or decrease (rounded to the nearest tenth of 1 percent) in the education expenditure category of the Consumer Price Index prepared by the Department of Labor; and

(C) in the case of funds paid or contributed to such program having the same designated beneficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than 365 days before such date, only so much of such funds as does not exceed \$6,825 [originally “\$5,000”, adjusted effective April 1, 2019]¹;

(7) any amount--

(A) withheld by an employer from the wages of employees for payment as contributions--

(i) to--

(I) an employee benefit plan that is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or under an employee benefit plan which is a governmental plan under [section 414\(d\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986;

(II) a deferred compensation plan under [section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986; or

(III) a tax-deferred annuity under [section 403\(b\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986;

except that such amount under this subparagraph shall not constitute disposable income as defined in [section 1325\(b\)\(2\)](#); or

(ii) to a health insurance plan regulated by State law whether or not subject to such title; or

(B) received by an employer from employees for payment as contributions--

(i) to--

(I) an employee benefit plan that is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or under an employee benefit plan which is a governmental plan under [section 414\(d\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986;

(II) a deferred compensation plan under [section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986; or

(III) a tax-deferred annuity under [section 403\(b\) of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986;

except that such amount under this subparagraph shall not constitute disposable income, as defined in [section 1325\(b\)\(2\)](#); or

(ii) to a health insurance plan regulated by State law whether or not subject to such title;

(8) subject to subchapter III of chapter 5, any interest of the debtor in property where the debtor pledged or sold tangible personal property (other than securities or written or printed evidences of indebtedness or title) as collateral for a loan or advance of money given by a person licensed under law to make such loans or advances, where--

(A) the tangible personal property is in the possession of the pledgee or transferee;

(B) the debtor has no obligation to repay the money, redeem the collateral, or buy back the property at a stipulated price; and

(C) neither the debtor nor the trustee have exercised any right to redeem provided under the contract or State law, in a timely manner as provided under State law and [section 108\(b\)](#);

(9) any interest in cash or cash equivalents that constitute proceeds of a sale by the debtor of a money order that is made--

(A) on or after the date that is 14 days prior to the date on which the petition is filed; and

(B) under an agreement with a money order issuer that prohibits the commingling of such proceeds with property of the debtor (notwithstanding that, contrary to the agreement, the proceeds may have been commingled with property of the debtor),

unless the money order issuer had not taken action, prior to the filing of the petition, to require compliance with the prohibition; or

(10) funds placed in an account of a qualified ABL program (as defined in [section 529A\(b\) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986](#)) not later than 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, but--

(A) only if the designated beneficiary of such account was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable year for which funds were placed in such account;

(B) only to the extent that such funds--

(i) are not pledged or promised to any entity in connection with any extension of credit; and

(ii) are not excess contributions (as described in [section 4973\(h\) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986](#)); and

(C) in the case of funds placed in all such accounts having the same designated beneficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than 365 days before such date, only so much of such funds as does not exceed \$6,825 [originally "\$6,225", adjusted effective April 1, 2019]¹.

Paragraph (4) shall not be construed to exclude from the estate any consideration the debtor retains, receives, or is entitled to receive for transferring an interest in liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons pursuant to a farmout agreement.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an interest of the debtor in property becomes property of the estate under subsection (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(5) of this section notwithstanding any provision in an agreement, transfer instrument, or applicable nonbankruptcy law--

(A) that restricts or conditions transfer of such interest by the debtor; or

(B) that is conditioned on the insolvency or financial condition of the debtor, on the commencement of a case under this title, or on the appointment of or taking possession by a trustee in a case under this title or a custodian before such commencement, and that effects or gives an option to effect a forfeiture, modification, or termination of the debtor's interest in property.

(2) A restriction on the transfer of a beneficial interest of the debtor in a trust that is enforceable under applicable nonbankruptcy law is enforceable in a case under this title.

(d) Property in which the debtor holds, as of the commencement of the case, only legal title and not an equitable interest, such as a mortgage secured by real property, or an interest in such a mortgage, sold by the debtor but as to which the debtor retains legal title to service or supervise the servicing of such mortgage or interest, becomes property of the estate under subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section only to the extent of the debtor's legal title to such property, but not to the extent of any equitable interest in such property that the debtor does not hold.

(e) In determining whether any of the relationships specified in paragraph (5)(A) or (6)(A) of subsection (b) exists, a legally adopted child of an individual (and a child who is a member of an individual's household, if placed with such individual by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption by such individual), or a foster child of an individual (if such child has as the child's principal place of abode the home of the debtor and is a member of the debtor's household) shall be treated as a child of such individual by blood.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, property that is held by a debtor that is a corporation described in [section 501\(c\)\(3\) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986](#) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code may be transferred to an entity that is not such a corporation, but only under the same conditions as would apply if the debtor had not filed a case under this title.

CREDIT(S)

(Pub.L. 95-598, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2594; Pub.L. 98-353, Title III, §§ 363(a), 456, July 10, 1984, 98 Stat. 363, 376; Pub.L. 101-508, Title III, § 3007(a)(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-28; Pub.L. 102-486, Title XXX, § 3017(b), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3130; Pub.L. 103-394, Title II, §§ 208(b), 223, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4124, 4129; Pub.L. 109-8, Title II, § 225(a), Title III, § 323, Title XII, §§ 1212, 1221(c), 1230, Apr. 20, 2005, 119 Stat. 65, 97, 194, 196, 201; Pub.L. 111-327, § 2(a)(22), Dec. 22, 2010, 124 Stat. 3560; Pub.L. 113-295, Div. B, Title I, § 104(a), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 4063.)

ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS

<For adjustment of dollar amounts specified in subsec. (b)(5)(C), (6)(C), (10)(C) of this section by the Judicial Conference of the United States, effective Apr. 1, 2019, see note set out under [11 U.S.C.A. § 104](#).>

<By notice published Feb. 12, 2019, 84 F.R. 3488, the Judicial Conference of the United States adjusted the dollar amounts in provisions specified in subsec. (b)(5)(C), (6)(C), (10)(C) of this section, effective Apr. 1, 2019, as follows:>

<In subsec. (b)(5)(C) adjusted \$6,425 to \$6,825.>

<In subsec. (b)(6)(C) adjusted \$6,425 to \$6,825.>

<In subsec. (b)(10)(C) adjusted \$6,425 to \$6,825.>

<By notice published Feb. 22, 2016, 81 F.R. 8748, the Judicial Conference of the United States adjusted the dollar amounts in provisions specified in subsec. (b)(5)(C), (6)(C) of this section, effective Apr. 1, 2016, as follows:>

<In subsec. (b)(5)(C) adjusted \$6,225 to \$6,425.>

<In subsec. (b)(6)(C) adjusted \$6,225 to \$6,425.>

<By notice published Feb. 21, 2013, 78 F.R. 12089, the Judicial Conference of the United States adjusted the dollar amounts in provisions specified in subsec. (b)(5)(C), (6)(C) of this section, effective Apr. 1, 2013, as follows:>

<In subsec. (b)(5)(C) adjusted \$5,850 to \$6,225.>

<In subsec. (b)(6)(C) adjusted \$5,850 to \$6,225.>

<By notice published Feb. 25, 2010, 75 F.R. 8747, the Judicial Conference of the United States adjusted the dollar amounts in provisions specified in subsec. (b)(5)(C), (6)(C) of this section, effective Apr. 1, 2010, as follows:>

<In subsec. (b)(5)(C) adjusted \$5,475 to \$5,850.>

<In subsec. (b)(6)(C) adjusted \$5,475 to \$5,850.>

<By notice published Feb. 14, 2007, 72 F.R. 7082, the Judicial Conference of the United States adjusted the dollar amounts in provisions specified in subsec. (b)(5)(C), (6)(C) of this section, effective Apr. 1, 2007, as follows:>

<In subsec. (b)(5)(C) adjusted \$5,000 to \$5,475.>

<In subsec. (b)(6)(C) adjusted \$5,000 to \$5,475.>

[Notes of Decisions \(2993\)](#)

Footnotes

[1](#) See Adjustment of Dollar Amounts notes set out under this section and [11 U.S.C.A. § 104](#).

11 U.S.C.A. § 541, 11 USCA § 541

Current through P.L. 116-259. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.