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Founder of Consolidated Credit Counseling Services, Inc.

CREDIT HELL

HOW TO DIG OUT OF DEBT



Credit Hell

How to Dig Out of Debt



Howard S. Dvorkin



WILEY

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To my wife Gwen
and to all of our children
for letting Daddy do what he loves

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Preface

Welcome to my new book, *Credit Hell: How To Dig Out of Debt*, a user friendly, easy-to-read guide to dealing with your debts when you are struggling to make ends meet. Follow the advice in this book if any of the problems on the following list apply to you:

- More than 15 percent of your take monthly home pay goes toward your debts.
- You can only afford to pay the minimum due on your credit cards each month.
- You have reached your credit limit on some if not all of your credit cards.
- You are using credit card advances to help you get through the month.
- You have little or nothing in savings.
- You are late paying your debts because you don't have the money you need to pay them by their due dates or you can't afford to pay some of your creditors at all.
- Creditors have refused to give you credit because of all of the negative information in your credit record or creditors are only willing to give you credit with

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terms that are less favorable than what they give other consumers with more positive credit histories.

- Debt collectors are calling you about your debts.
- Some of your creditors are threatening you with lawsuits.
- You and your spouse or partner are fighting over money.
- You are constantly worried about money.

Credit Hell guides you through the get-out-of-debt process from assessing the state of your finances and developing a budget, to negotiating with your creditors, consolidating your debts, and rebuilding your finances after your money troubles are over. It also tells you how to deal with important debts like a mortgage, car loans, and any taxes you may owe to the IRS. *Credit Hell* also lets you know when filing for bankruptcy is your best option and provides you with an overview of the process. In addition, this book explains why having a good credit record and a high credit score is important, how to order your credit report from each of the three national credit-reporting agencies, and what you can do to improve your scores and correct problems in your credit records. In addition, *Credit Hell* educates you about important laws that can protect you when you are applying for credit, using credit, or if a debt collector is hounding you. Finally, this book provides information about resources you can turn to for additional information and help as well as a glossary of terms that you may encounter as you dig yourself out of debt and try to stay out of debt in the future.