

## Appendix C. Comparison of Federal and Tennessee Bankruptcy Exemptions

Federal Bankruptcy Exemptions	
Homestead	Real property, including mobile homes and co-ops, or burial plots up to \$22,975. Unused portion of homestead, up to \$11,500 may be used for other property.
Personal Property	Motor vehicle up to \$3,675. Animals, crops, clothing, appliances and furnishings, books, household goods, and musical instruments up to \$575 per item, and up to \$12,250 total. Jewelry up to \$1,550. Health aids. Wrongful death recovery for person you depended upon. Personal injury recovery up to \$22,975 except for pain and suffering or for pecuniary loss. Lost earnings payments.
Pensions	Tax exempt retirement accounts (including 401(k)s, 403(b)s, profit-sharing and money purchase plans, SEP and SIMPLE IRAs, and defined benefit plans). IRAs and Roth IRAs to \$1,245,475.
Public Benefits	Public assistance, Social Security, Veteran's benefits, Unemployment Compensation. Crime victim's compensation.
Tools of Trade	Implements, books and tools of trade, up to \$2,300.
Alimony and Child Support	Alimony and child support
Insurance	Unmatured life insurance policy except credit insurance. Life insurance policy with loan value up to \$12,250. Disability, unemployment or illness benefits. Life insurance payments for a person you depended on, which you need for support.
Wildcard	\$1,225 of any property, and unused portion of homestead up to \$11,500.

Tennessee Bankruptcy Exemptions	
Homestead	\$5,000; \$7,500 for joint owners; 12,500 for an individual 62 or older; 20,000 for married couples with one person age 62 or older; 25,000 for married couples who are both age 62 or older; 25,000 for individuals with a minor child in their custody (may double exemption for married couples with joint custody). Life estates and leaseholds (ranging 2-15 years).
Personal Property	Bible, schoolbooks, pictures, portraits, clothing & storage containers; burial plot to 1 acre; Health aids; Lost earnings payments; Personal injury recoveries to \$7,500; wrongful death recoveries to \$10,000 (not more than \$15,000 total for personal injury, wrongful death & crime victims' compensation)
Pensions	ERISA-qualified benefits; Public employees; State & local government employees; Teachers
Public Benefits	Aid to blind and disabled; Crime victims' compensation to \$5,000; Local public assistance; Old-age assistance; Social security; Unemployment; Veterans' benefits; Workers' compensation
Tools of trade	Implements, books and tools of trade to \$1,900
Wages and other	Minimum 75% of earned but unpaid wages, plus \$2.50/week/child; bankruptcy judge may authorize more for low-income debtors; Alimony owed for 30 days before filing for bankruptcy; Property of business partnership
Insurance	Accident, health or disability benefits. Disability or illness benefits. Fraternal benefit society benefits. Homeowners' insurance proceeds to \$5,000. Life insurance or annuity for spouse/children/dependent relatives - exempt from all claims
Wildcard	\$10,000 on any personal property