*RAVALLI COUNTY JUSTICE COURT*
*205 Bedford Street*
*Hamilton, Montana 59840*

# Collection of Judgments Guidelines

*These are basic guidelines relating to collection of a Justice Court judgment. Neither the Judge nor the Clerk can provide you with advice or interpretation of law as it relates to judgment collections. If you have questions or are unsure about the procedures, refer to the Montana Statutes or contact an attorney. The library has a copy of the Statutes, or they can be accessed on line at http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/mca_toc/index.htm*

**Certification of Judgment**: A Judgment can be certified to District Court and effectively creates a lien of any real property owned by the Judgment Debtor. A written request for a certification must include a $3 check payable to Ravalli County Justice Court and a $45 check payable to Ravalli County District Court. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. (A certification can also be filed in other Counties where the Judgment Debtor may own real property.)

**Writ of Execution**: After being awarded a Judgment, you may file a written request for a Writ of Execution. A Writ can be used to garnish wages or execute against a checking or savings account. A Writ can only be served by the Sheriff's Office or a licensed levying officer. You will need to provide specific information to the Sheriff's Office or levying officer as to where you want the Writ served -- name and address of an employer or bank.

Very specific laws govern the service of a Writ of Execution and, ultimately, you are responsible for insuring that all requirements are met.

**Satisfaction of Judgment**: A Satisfaction of Judgment must be filed with the Court as soon as the Judgment has been paid.