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**U.S. HARDSHIP GROUP**  
 Services Corporation

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## STUDENT LOANS

U.S. Hardship Group specializes in helping clients around the country with student loan debt. Whether it is private or federal student loan debt, our team of professionals can help today! Student loan debt, and borrowers' problems repaying student loans are growing. Today, federal student loan debt is \$900 billion, and private student loans total \$140 billion. Defaults total more than \$8 billion, representing 850,000 distinct loans.

Many struggling borrowers are calling for private student loan student loan forgiveness, to ease the burdens caused by paying their private student loan debt. If you are one of the 37.1 million people in the US with a student loan today, your options for handling federal and private student loans differ. Federal student loans are taken out by the students themselves or by their parents, who take out PLUS loans.

Most student loans do not have co-borrowers. The Dept. of Education offers a variety of deferment, forbearance, and repayment plans for federal borrowers. Private student loans almost always have a co-signer, and lenders will collect a private student loan from a co-signer if the primary borrower defaults. Because a co-signer is usually a close family member, a delinquent private student can cause a problem for a whole family, and not just the borrower. Private student loan lenders lack the extensive array of repayment and consolidation the Dept. of Education offers.

### What Is Special About A Private Student Loan?

A private student loan is an unsecured loan, meaning that the lender's only security is you, the borrower and your ability to repay the loan. This is similar to credit card debt or a personal loan. This is different from a mortgage or auto loan, which has an underlying asset as collateral. If you do nothing and default on a student loan, the lender can seek to obtain a court judgment in order to garnish wages, place a bank levy, or a lien on your personal property.

Unlike a federal student loans, which have no statute of limitations (SOL), state laws that pertain to written contracts, will determine private student's SOL. However, and this is important to know, student loans are generally not dischargeable in a bankruptcy.

### Debt Validation For Private Student Loans

This is where the U.S. Hardship Group's debt validation service comes in. They provide an authorized representative who works on your behalf demanding verification of your account, using a notary and affidavits. They request a full forensic audit, proof that the original lender and debt collector followed all laws, that the collector is legally licensed to collect in your state, that they have the original contract and much more including filling out a 7 page debt collector disclosure statement by a bank official under penalty of perjury.

The proprietary paperwork used in the dispute by U.S. Hardship Group uses multiple laws, including:

The Credit Card Act of 2009, also called the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights  
 The Truth in Lending Act (TILA)  
 The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act  
 The Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act  
 The Federal Fair Credit Billing Act  
 And even The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

By putting all these laws together in the verification process it means that the collector needs to prove a number of things, which they almost never can. If they do validate the debt, you have a 100% money back guarantee on that debt.

### Federal Student Loan Consolidation

Federal student loan consolidation is a great tool that allows borrowers to merge all of their federal student loans into one new loan.

#### What are the benefits of consolidating your federal student loans?

- Reduces your monthly payment obligation (up to 50% in some cases)
- Simplifies your finances - you make only one payment each month
- Provides budget friendly repayment options such as income based repayment
- Saves you money today when you need it most!
- Allows borrowers (parents or students) to lock in today's low rates and to combine several federal student loans into one loan, simplifying repayment. Because repayment can be spread over a longer time period, your monthly payment amount will be lower.
- There is no minimum amount required to qualify for a direct consolidation loan

Federal consolidation interest rates are based on the weighted average of student loan interest rates. Federal Stafford loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2012 have an interest rate of 3.4% (subsidized) and 6.8% (unsubsidized). Federal parent plus loans disbursed after July 1, 2012 have a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. For federal loans disbursed before the 2012-2013 academic year, log into your studentloans.gov account to view the most up-to-date interest rate for your loan(s).

Student loan consolidation offers you the benefit and flexibility of one lower payment each month. Your present student loans will be refinanced and combined into one new loan. This means making one payment with one fixed interest rate each month rather than paying multiple interest rates for different loans to various lenders each month. Plus, with consolidation you save money as well.

Even if you can make the monthly payments from your original school loans, you should still consider consolidating to lower your payments and free up money for your other bills, like credit card payments, personal loans, mobile phones, and utilities.

The extra cash that student loan consolidation can leave in your pocket each month and the long-term savings you will realize as a result will enable you to save for a new home, take that dream vacation, or put your young child through college - without any student loans!

### Federal Student Loan Forgiveness

Student loan forgiveness programs can eliminate anywhere from a few thousand dollars to upwards of \$100,000 of your student loan debt. Did you know that some student loans can be forgiven? Yes, it's a well-guarded secret that programs exist that can eliminate some or all of your student loans in return for choosing certain careers, military service, and even volunteer work.

Most college graduates are completely unaware of these and therefore do not know if they qualify and they fail to apply. There are several student loan forgiveness programs available that you may qualify for. U.S. Hardship Group can help explain these programs in simple terms, show you your options, and submit all the paperwork for you. It's that easy!

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