

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
FORT WAYNE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
JAMES WASHINGTON OLDHAM ) CASE NO. 05-12971  
 )  
 )  
Debtor )

**DECISION AND ORDER DENYING MOTION TO AVOID LIENS**

At Fort Wayne, Indiana, on February 21, 2007

This case was reopened at the debtor's request so that he could amend his schedules in order to add additional creditors. That motion was granted and the debtor amended his schedules, including schedule C – exemptions. In that amended schedule, the debtor claimed an exemption in real property that had not been claimed before the case was closed. On the strength of the newly claimed exemption, the debtor filed a motion to avoid judicial liens upon that property. This court has previously held that “a debtor may not reopen a case in order to amend its claimed exemptions and then avoid judicial liens against the newly exempted property.” In re Bartlett, 326 B.R. 436, 438 (Bankr. N.D. Ind. 2005); In re Clear, 1992 WL 1359570 (Bankr. N.D. Ind. 1992). A post-closure amendment of claimed exemptions is of no effect. Bartlett, 326 B.R. at 441. The motion to avoid judicial liens, filed on January 24, 2007, is therefore DENIED.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ Robert E. Grant  
Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court