

## **Ten Things You Need to Know about the Fair Credit Reporting Act**

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies, such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, employment records and rental history records

- 1) You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.**  
Anyone using a credit report to deny application for credit, insurance, employment or a rental property, or to take another adverse action against you, must tell you, and give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information.
- 2) You have the right to know what is in your file.**  
You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:
  - someone has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit file.
  - you are a victim of identity theft
  - your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud
  - you are on public assistance
  - you are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days
- 3) You have the right to ask for a credit score**  
Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from the credit bureaus. You may have to pay for your credit score from the reporting agency.
- 4) You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information**  
You may dispute information in your credit file that is incomplete or inaccurate. It is recommended that the dispute be IN WRITING. The reporting agency must investigate your dispute and provide a written response within 30 days.
- 5) Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete or unverifiable information.**  
If you report an inaccurate or incomplete listing to the credit reporting agency, and provide supporting documentation, the credit bureau is to remove or correct the error within 30 days. If the bureau verifies the information as accurate, they may continue to report.
- 6) Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information**  
In most cases, credit reporting agencies may not report negative information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.
- 7) Access to your file is limited.**  
A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you to people with a valid need, such as for the consideration of a credit application, insurance, employment, rental property or other business.
- 8) You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.**  
You must provide written consent for an employer, or potential employer to access your credit file.
- 9) You may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.**  
"Prescreened" offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number that can be called so that the consumer can remove his/her name.
- 10) You may seek damages from violators.**  
The credit bureau or furnisher of credit information may be sued if they have violated the FCRA.

To obtain a current credit report, write to the credit bureaus at:

**TransUnion, LLC**  
Consumer Disclosure Center

**Equifax**  
Consumer Disclosure Department

**Experian**  
P.O. Box 2002

P.O. Box 1000  
Chester, PA 19022

P.O. Box 740241  
Atlanta, GA 30374

Allen, TX 75013