

FACTS ALL CONSUMERS SHOULD KNOW

- The payment history on a credit report is supplied to the credit bureau by the credit grantor. This includes both open accounts and accounts that have been closed.
- Payment in full does not remove a particular entry from a payment history. The length of time information remains on the credit file varies, as follows:
 - Bankruptcy 10 years from date of entry or the date of judgment.
 - Suits and Judgments 7 years from the date of entry or until the governing statute of limitation has expired, whichever is longer.
 - Tax Lien 7 years from the date of payment.
 - Collections/Charge-offs 7 years from the date placed in collection or from date of charge-off.
 - Records of Arrest, Indictment, Dispositions, Parole 7 years from date of incident.
 - Any other adverse information 7 years from date of delinquency action.
 - Inquiries 2 years from date of entry.

Exempt Cases:

Credit transactions of \$150,000 or more

Underwriting of Insurance of \$150,000 or more

- A divorce decree does not supersede the original contract with the creditor, and does not release a consumer from legal responsibility. To release a consumer from liability, the consumer must contact each creditor and request a legal release of obligation. Only after the release has been approved can the credit history be updated.
- The balance reported should be the balance on the date the creditor reported the information to the credit bureau. Creditors report information on a periodic basis, so the balance reported may not be the actual balance owed.
- If an investigation results in changing or deleting information, the consumer may request that an updated credit report be sent to him/her and any creditor which has requested a copy of the consumer's report in the past six months. The consumer can also request a copy of the credit report in the past two years.
- Credit bureaus do not grant credit; each creditor has established certain criteria for making credit decisions. Although a consumer's credit may appear perfect, he may have too much debt. Sometimes the decision to grant credit is not based entirely on the credit report. For instance; length of residence, job stability and income, value of collateral, and no credit history could all be reasons for credit denial.