

## Commonly Asked Questions About Credit Files

### Q. How can I correct a mistake in my credit file ?

- A. Complete the Research Request form and give details of the information you believe is incorrect. We will then check with the credit grantor, collection agency or public record source to see if any error has been reported. Information that cannot be verified will be removed from your file. If you and a credit grantor disagree on any information, you will need to resolve the dispute directly with the credit grantor who is the source of the information in question. *[Creditor, Judge, Jury + Executioner]*

### Q. Why doesn't my credit information from Equifax match that of Experian and TransUnion ?

- A. Credit information providers do not share your credit data with each other. As a result, updates made to your Equifax credit file may not be reflected on reports from Experian and TransUnion. You will need to contact the other credit information services directly to correct any inaccurate information. Contact information is provided below:

**Trans Union, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022 Phone: (800) 888-4213**

**Experian, P.O. Box 9530 Allen, TX 75013 Phone: (888) 397-3742**

### Q. If I do have credit problems, is there someplace where I can get advice and assistance ?

- A. Yes, there are a number of organizations that offer assistance. For example, the Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) is a non-profit organization that offers free or low-cost financial counseling to help people solve their financial problems. CCCS can help you analyze your situation and work with you to develop solutions. There are more than 600 CCCS offices throughout the country. Call 1 (800) 388-2227 for the telephone number of the office nearest you.

## Facts You Should Know

- o The length of time an account or record remains in your credit file is shown below:

Collection Agency Accounts: Remain for up to 7 years from the Date of 1st Delinquency.

Credit or Other Reported Accounts: Accounts paid as agreed remain for up to 10 years from the Date of Last Activity. Accounts not paid as agreed (i.e. delinquent, charge off, accounts placed for collection) remain for up to 7 years from the Date of 1st Delinquency.

Public Records: Remain for up to 7 years from the date filed, except:

Bankruptcy - Chapter 7 and 11 remain for up to 10 years from the date filed.

Bankruptcy - Chapter 13 dismissed or no disposition rendered remain for up to 10 years from the date filed.

Unpaid tax liens remain indefinitely.

Paid tax liens remain for up to 7 years from the date released.

New York State Residents Only: Satisfied judgments remain for up to 5 years from the date filed; paid collections remain for up to 5 years from the Date of 1st Delinquency.

California State Residents Only: Unpaid tax liens remain for up to 10 years from the date filed or up to 7 years from the date released.

Payment history for an account on your credit file, if any, is found at the bottom of an account under the title "Account History with Status Codes". This history reflects the month, year and late payment status, and is generally supplied by credit grantors or other furnishers of information to Equifax with whom you have a relationship. This history is included on both open accounts and accounts that have already been closed. Payment in full does not remove your payment history. If you have always paid an account as agreed, the account should not have payment history status information. Specific payment history typically remains on your credit file for up to 7 years from the date shown for it.

Name, address, and Social Security Number information may be provided to businesses that have a legitimate need to locate or identify a consumer. *Judge, Jury, and Executioner = Creditor*

### Notice: Dispute Review Process and Your Rights: *The Source is the Creditor.*

Upon receipt of your dispute, we first review and consider the relevant information you have submitted regarding the nature of your dispute. If that review does not resolve your dispute and further investigation is required, notification of your dispute, including the relevant information you submitted, is provided to the source that furnished the disputed information. The source reviews the information provided, conducts an investigation with respect to the disputed information and reports the results back to us. The credit reporting agency then makes deletions, or changes to your credit file as appropriate based on the results of the reinvestigation. The name and address and, if reasonably available, the phone number of the furnisher(s) of information contacted while processing your dispute(s) is shown under the "Results of Your Investigation" section. *[Credit Dispute]*

If you still disagree with an item after it has been verified, you may send to us a brief statement, not to exceed 100 words (200 words for Maine residents) explaining the nature of your disagreement. Your statement will become part of your credit file and will be disclosed each time your credit file is accessed. *[Consumer Statement]*

If the reinvestigation results in a change to or deletion of the information you are concerned about, or you submit a statement in accordance with the preceding paragraph, you have the right to request that we send your revised credit file to any company that received your credit file in the past 6 months for any purpose (12 months for California, Colorado, Maryland, New Jersey and New York residents) or in the past two years for employment purposes.