

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) is designed to promote accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of every “consumer reporting agency” (CRA). Most CRAs are credit bureaus that gather and sell information about you—such as if you pay your bills on time or have filed bankruptcy—to creditors, employers, landlords, and the Federal Trade Commission’s website (<http://www.ftc.gov>). The FCRA gives you specific rights, as outlined below. You may have additional rights under state law. You may contact a state or local consumer protection agency or a state attorney general to learn those rights.

- **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.** Anyone who uses information from a CRA to take action against you—such as denying an application for credit, insurance, or employment—must tell you and give you the name, address, and phone number of the CRA that provided the consumer report.
- **You can find out what is in your file.** At your request, a CRA must give you the information in your file, and list of everyone who has requested it recently. There is no charge for the report if a person has taken action against you because of information supplied by the CRA, if you request the report within 60 days of receiving notice of the action.
- **You can dispute inaccurate information with the CRA.** If you tell a CRA that your file contains inaccurate information, the CRA must investigate the items (usually within 30 days) by presenting to its information source all relevant evidence, you submit, unless your dispute is frivolous.
- **Inaccurate information must be corrected or deleted.** A CRA must remove or correct inaccurate or unverified information from its files, usually within 30 days after you dispute it.
- **You can dispute inaccurate items with the source of the information.** If you tell anyone—such as a creditor who reports to a CRA—that you dispute an item, they may not then report the information to the CRA without including a notice of your dispute.
- **Outdated information may not be reported.**
- **Access to your file is limited.**
- **Your written consent is required for reports that are provided to employers, or reports that contain medical information.**
- **You may choose to exclude your name from CRA lists for unsolicited credit and insurance offers.**
- **You may seek damages from violators.**

A complete summary of rights is available on the Federal Trade Commission website as <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf>

