

# KNOW YOUR CREDIT REPORT

Businesses can use this information to evaluate your applications for credit



Your credit report may contain information about:

1. Where you live
2. How you pay your bills
3. When you pay your bills
3. Whether you've been sued
4. Any arrest records
5. Whether you filed for bankruptcy

## GET A FREE CREDIT REPORT EVERY YEAR

Consumers are entitled to a free credit report, when requested, every 12 months, from each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies; Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. To request your free credit report visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228.

## DEALING WITH BAD CREDIT

Bad credit takes time to repair. There are no quick fixes, but with a conscious effort and sticking to a personal debt repayment plan, a credit report can be repaired. In most cases, negative items are erased from a consumer's credit history after 7 years, and 10 years for Chapter 11 bankruptcies. Some credit repair companies will make claims that they can erase your bad credit, or give you a new credit identity.

## ACTIVATE A FRAUD ALERT

Put a fraud alert on your account so any credit bureau reporting agency must call you to confirm that you are the person applying for credit. This will minimize identify fraud that includes setting up fraudulent credit accounts. You only need to call one of the reporting agencies and the fraud alert will appear on your credit history.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection  
[www.cityofchicago.org/bacp](http://www.cityofchicago.org/bacp) • To file a complaint call 311

Free Credit Report

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) • 1-877-322-8228

Credit Karma: <https://www.creditkarma.com>

Nationwide Consumer Credit Reporting Companies:

Equifax: [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com) • Experian: [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

Trans Union: [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

Better Business Bureau

[www.chicago.bbb.org](http://www.chicago.bbb.org) • 1-312-832-0500

Illinois State Attorney General

[www.ag.state.il.us](http://www.ag.state.il.us) • 1-800-386-5438 • TTY: 1-800-964-3013

Money Management International (MMI) Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS)

[www.moneymanagement.org](http://www.moneymanagement.org)



@ChicagoBACP

/ChicagoBACP

CityofChicago.org/BACP

Department of Business Affairs  
and Consumer Protection

City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street, Room 805, Chicago, IL 60602



**BACP**  
BUSINESS AFFAIRS  
CONSUMER PROTECTION