

# **Boost Your Credit Score By Yourself!**

## **How to get the house or car you want**

### **TIP 1. STEP-BY-STEP GAME PLAN**

This is what you have to know to fix your credit in a hurry:

You must know your three credit scores from the three credit bureaus. This will be explained below.

You must get your credit report from all three bureaus, with a confirmation number that allows you to follow up on your items by phone or fax. The quickest way to get your report is online. You must know which score is your middle score if you are applying for a home loan. This is the score that has the middle value out of all three scores.

If you are applying for a car loan, it helps to know which credit bureau the car dealer likes to use.

Depending on the credit bureau, you can change your score in 24 hours using the following techniques:

- ❑ Starting an immediate investigation by phone or online of any credit items you are in dispute with (disputes immediately boost your score with Equifax)
- ❑ Starting an internal investigation with your creditor, if they are a big creditor like MBNA Visa Card the dispute will show a pending deletion on Experian right away, in other words, any bad item will be temporarily suspended pending investigation
- ❑ Fax any proof of credit item deletions from your creditors, or payoff letters to the credit bureau. Although they take up to a week to change your report, you can talk nicely to someone and have it done pretty quickly, like in a day.

## **TIP 2. KNOW YOUR CREDIT SCORES**

It's possible that you already know your credit scores, but let me go over what they are. About seven years ago some Ph.D.s at a company called Fair Isaac developed a system to "predict" who might go into credit failure from people's credit reports. This system gained more popularity in recent years and now each of the three main credit bureaus licenses Fair Isaac's system for generating credit scores. Equifax calls the score based on this technology your FICO score, Experian calls it your BEACON score. TransUnion calls it your EMPIRICA score.

### Why does this score matter?

People like you and me applying for mortgage or car loans are nothing but a "number", our credit score. And even though you may be to a fine upstanding citizen and pay just about every bill on time, the Fair Isaac algorithm for predicting credit failure may "mark" you as a poor risk using its predictive analysis.

Even if you have paid your bills for many years, and someone else has claimed bankruptcy in the past three years, the "bankrupt" person may be the one to get the credit! It is not fair, but to understand the system you must think like the "computer" thinks. Picture this - the person that has just claimed bankruptcy has no debt, and is forbidden from filing bankruptcy again for another 7 years.

Furthermore, they may be applying for a house or car, which is a "secured debt" - meaning that the loan they're applying for is "secured" by some kind of house or car. The lender likes this security or collateral, they can take that house or car away and sell it, which is a secure situation for them. You on the other hand may have lots of "unsecured debt" - debt like credit cards that are not secured by any property. So, in short, you may be a great person and even a great credit risk, but if you have a poor credit score, you may not be able to get a loan.

### How do you find out your credit score?

There are three credit bureaus, Trans Union, Experian, and Equifax. Trans Union will tell you your score over the phone for free.

The other two bureaus will "sell" you a look at your score on the phone or online for approximately \$6.95. Also, you can pay up to nine dollars for your full credit report from each of the three bureaus by mail, on the phone, or online--and each credit report will show your score.

### TIP 3. WHY YOU DISPUTE YOUR DEROGATORY ITEMS

There are some credit repair consultants that will charge you \$700 to fix your credit. In fact, all they are doing is disputing derogatory items on your credit so that they come off.

Why does this work? Well, it can work in two ways:

- 1) The item is inaccurate--you in fact don't deserve to have this thing on your report and it is inaccurate. For instance, let's suppose there is an open collection your credit report for \$150, but you really paid it two years ago. If you dispute this item with the credit bureaus as inaccurate, you are exercising your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act to get this item taken off. Your creditor is required by law to verify items and report back to the credit bureau within 30 days. If they find the item is old or inaccurate, they will tell the credit bureau and your item will be deleted. Sometimes you have to help prove to the creditor that the item is inaccurate, i.e. showing them a cancelled check for payment, but then the item will be deleted off your credit report.
- 2) The item is accurate but the item gets deleted anyway--this can happen for several reasons:
  - ❑ The creditor got paid and doesn't care to respond to the dispute from the credit bureau. They let the item get deleted by not responding. This happens mostly with small collections that were paid. But guess what! Each collection item deleted can be 20-25 points each. So in other words, you can get items deleted when you dispute and the creditor doesn't try and prove the item accurate. This happens with collections and student loans a lot that have been paid off. The percentage of the time that this happens is about 30%.
  - ❑ You can talk to your creditor directly and ask them "do you delete?" It is a collection agency, about 50% of the time they will "delete" -- in collection lingo that means to delete the item from the credit bureaus once you pay. Sometimes you have to pay a little deletion fee. But remember, every collection taken off your credit is worth about 20+ points! Ask your collector if they delete.
  - ❑ The item is accurate, your creditor doesn't "delete", but they don't want to be hassled or sued--by calling the creditor and saying you are buying a house or car, sometimes they will temporarily delete the item from your credit (lasts about 6 months). They know the purchase is important to you and don't want the hassle of you calling and writing and disputing again and again. About 30% of the time creditors will delete your item temporarily, I have had this happen with ATT Visa (2 60 days late) and Bank of America mortgage (1 30 day late). If creditors know you are buying a house, they will often play ball to avoid hassles and lawsuits. What if they don't play ball? Fax them the same letter every week asking them to delete. Send it to the credit manager in charge. Also dispute every 30 days or so until the creditor grows weary and they delete. Dispute and use persistence. That's what the professionals do. Now you can do it too.

#### **TIP 4. EXAMPLE OF BOOSTING SCORE IN 24 HOURS**

Let's suppose you have a loan application happening with little time to fix things. Let me share an anecdote of what happened with me: I was applying for a loan on a four-plex and I went to a loan broker who told me my middle score was 622. (Mortgage lenders pull all three reports and look at the middle score. I had a 580 with TransUnion, a 622 with Equifax, and a 634 with Experian, thus my middle score was 622.

Just to let you know, 620 and up is considered light to medium risk and you can get just about any loan including low or no income verification loans, just at a higher rate than normal. So what was the game plan here? To work on the Equifax score since it was the middle score, and thus the most important score. It just so happens that it is easy to boost your Equifax score, just start a credit item investigation online or by phone! I went online, paid \$8 with my Visa at [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com), started disputing negative items online, and my Equifax score temporarily increased while the items were getting investigated.

Also, since I had an MBNA Visa card with 2 30 day late payments on it in the past 18 months, I called MBNA, explained that I was in a dire situation and that my payment had been delayed a couple of times because of their pay by phone equipment, and they started an investigation internally and temporarily deleted my derogatory item, a quick boost to my credit score. My Equifax score jumped up to 650, a 28-point increase.

#### **TIP 5. KNOW HOW TO "PULL" YOUR CREDIT REPORT, AND HOW NOT TO**

If you pull your credit report yourself, there will be no negative consequences in the form of "inquiries", a "mark" against your credit. However, if any car dealer, mortgage lender, credit card company, or any other type of creditor pulls your credit report, it counts against you of an inquiry. At present, these inquiries stay on your credit for two years, and are difficult to get removed. If you are applying for mortgage refinance or new home loan, you can apply for up to 6 home loans in a thirty day period before your score changes. Just to be safe, if you are curious about your credit reports always pull them yourself. You can contact the credit bureaus with these phone numbers or web addresses:

##### Credit Bureaus

Experian  
800-583-4080/No Fax  
<http://www.experian.com>

Equifax  
<http://www.myequifax.com>  
866-838-1015  
404-885-8000 (Fax)

TransUnion  
<http://www.transunion.com>  
800-916-8800  
610-546-4605 (Fax)

## **TIP 6. JUST THE PAST 18 MONTHS REALLY COUNT**

In today's lax credit lending environment, lenders are not looking at the past seven years like before but are looking at the last 18 months. This could be good or bad news: if most of your mistakes are in the past, previous to the 18 month cut off, then it is easy to qualify for credit. But if you have been a saint for the last seven years and in the last 18 months you've made a few mistakes is going to cost you dearly. It is important for you to know that the past 18 months are what count the most. Even people with bankruptcies more than 18 months ago can apply for credit and often get it.

## **TIP 7. PAY COLLECTIONS FOR FASTEST RESULTS.**

Think the way the "computer" thinks: people that are about to default on their loans start by "getting behind" on their phone bills, credit cards, and other accounts. Any unpaid collection or 30+ day late on your revolving accounts will be about 35 percent or more than one-third of your low credit score. The good news: paying collections is one of the fastest ways to improve your credit score. Here's a typical scenario: recall a collection company that you know you have an unpaid debt with and you ask the representative this important question, "do you delete"? When you ask this question you're talking in "collector's language", asking if the collection agency will completely remove your debt from the credit reports if you pay your debt. About 50 percent of them will.

Sometimes a collection agency even has the up to date computer system that can remove your debt from the credit bureaus immediately, thus aiding you to the collection free in 24 hours.

If the collection agency doesn't "delete", pay them anyway; the "collection paid" status looks much better than an open account showing on your credit reports.

## **TIP 8. KEEP DISPUTING ALL ITEMS, AGAIN AND AGAIN**

Know the most important word in credit repair: "dispute". Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you have several rights to amend your credit report. One is the right to "dispute" any items you think are inaccurate--for instance, a collection you think is not yours or a revolving account think you are never late on, for instance a credit card. You have the right to call, mail, or go online to dispute all items you think are inaccurate.

Credit Repair Consultants that charge \$500 or more will actually just dispute every derogatory item on your credit report until your creditors get tired of the disputes and take the item off. Most creditors like collection agencies or credit card companies know that customers that are disputing their credit items vigorously are looking to buy a home for car and they don't want to get away. Even if the derogatory item is correct, many times creditors will remove temporarily so that you can apply for your loans. Many times derogatory items will pop back up on your credit report within six months or so, since computers automatically update information to the credit bureaus. However, disputing your derogatory items and being persistent is the most important credit repair strategy of all.

#### **TIP 9. DISPUTE ITEMS ON-LINE OR OVER THE PHONE FOR THE QUICKEST RESULTS.**

Two of the three credit bureaus are available online (except for Trans Union), all you need is to have purchased your credit reports and have your confirmation number handy from this online purchase. Also, you can call each credit bureau if you have time to be on hold for up to 10 minutes each, and you can dispute items on the phone for quick results as well.

#### **TIP 10. KNOW YOUR "MIDDLE" SCORE.**

More and more these days, mortgage lenders are using third party credit reporting agencies that take all three of your credit reports and report the "middle score". For instance, on TransUnion lately I have a 680, on Equifax I have a 720 and on Experian I have a 734. Therefore Equifax is my middle score. The mortgage lenders will look at the middle score and determine your credit risk based on this middle score. 620 is cut off for "good" credit risk, everything below is "bad". It is definitely preferable to have a 700 or above for home loans especially.

#### **TIP 11. KNOW HOW TO "RAPID RE-SCORE" YOUR CREDIT.**

If you are applying for loan through loan broker, which many people are these days, they have access to service called Factual Data. For a charge of \$15-30 per "trade line" (or per derogatory item), you can apply for a "Rapid Rescore" if you know some of your credit items are old. For instance, I had a collection item from five years ago reappear on my Equifax credit report, and I had a new one hundred dollar collection appear the week before was applying for a new home loan (Murphy's law). I called the first collection agency and had them fax me a "deletion letter", then contacted the other agency getting them to fax me a deletion letter as well. Knowing that I had paid off the first and second mortgage on a home I had just sold, I knew that the "Rapid Rescore" service from Factual Data could boost my credit score on all three bureaus within one week or less. The only disadvantage with Rapid Rescore is that you must ask for your mortgage lender and if you change mortgage lenders you will not be able to see the new score on the new lender's reports.

#### **TIP 12. HIGH BALANCES ON UNSECURED DEBT--KNOCK THEM DOWN!**

Remember that lenders cannot tell how much you earn from your credit report. But they can tell whether you are "maxed out" on your credit cards. Being "maxed out" is a sign that you're spending may be exceeding your income, and this is a strong possible sign of future credit problems, at least as far as credit scorers reckon. You may have the best of intentions, but have a poor credit score because of your high credit card balances. Your credit card balances being near your credit limit may be the reason for as much as 35 percent of your low credit score. If you have high credit card balances in combination with late payments are collections, look out! This is seen as a dangerous combination. See effective ways to knock down your credit card balances in Tips 14 and 23.

#### **TIP 13. DISPUTE YOUR HIGH BALANCES**

Balance information is often 60 to 180 days old, especially on automobile debt. For instance, let's suppose you've been paying your car payment faithfully for two out of three years. Maybe your car's five thousand dollars and you have paid your loan down to 2 thousand dollars. However, the credit bureaus are reporting and your loan balances still 4000 dollars! Car companies often don't have been up-to-date "software" that updates your credit information on time. Since the loan balance data at the credit bureaus could be as much as six months old, you may not be qualifying for the loans you deserve because of high balances. The remedy is to dispute with the three credit bureaus online or on the phone to update your loan balances on your credit reports.

**TIP 14. CALL YOUR CREDITORS AND ASK THEM TO UPDATE YOUR BALANCE WITH THE CREDIT BUREAUS.**

Some of the more sophisticated creditors such as MBNA America Visa or American Express can quickly "update" your balances of credit bureaus if you really need them to.

The preferred to wait for the computer your balance every 30 days after your due date but if you call them and say you are applying for a home or car loan and need the better credit score they should be able to report an updated balance to the credit bureaus within 24-48 hours.

**TIP 15. APPLY FOR CREDIT WATCH SERVICE**

Although there are things you can do to improve your credit score in 24 hours, it is better to belong to a credit watch service that watches all three bureaus for you and reports any change in your score to your email. For a total of \$24.95, this is a good value, as it can save you hundreds or thousands of dollars in loan fees, pre-payment penalties and interest that "bad risk" people have to pay for their loans. Apply for this service and have a better credit score, and better bottom line.

**TIP 16. GET DELETION LETTERS FROM YOUR COLLECTION AGENCIES.**

About 30 to 50 percent of all collection agencies will generate a "deletion letter" to show that your collection item has been removed from their system. The reason they need to do this is because the credit bureau may continue to show the collection item for seven years even if your collector's system no longer shows it. Also, if one of the credit bureaus shows the collection and the other two don't, it is possible that the other two will pick up the collection item and report it. In other words, you want to mail or fax the deletion letter to all three credit bureaus to delete it once and for all. Two of the three bureaus, Trans Union and Equifax will accept a faxed version of the deletion letter.

See Appendix for Credit Bureau Contact Info

Experian wants a faxed or original letter with letterhead and a signature sent to their mailing or Federal Express address.

Experian  
701 Experian Pkwy  
Allen TX 75013

**TIP 17. GET PAYOFF LETTERS FOR YOUR PAID OFF ACCOUNTS AND FAX THEM FOR QUICKEST RESULTS.**

Sometimes you have paid off an account but it still shows the credit report. For instance I sold my house in California recently and my first and second mortgage were still showing when I was applying for a new home purchase loan. Because I already have three credit cards, is best to show my mortgage loans paid off to show as little debt as possible. I called the payoff departments for both my first and second mortgage (Indy Mac Bank and Beneficial respectively), and got payoff letters to prove those debts were paid. I then faxed these payoff letters to the credit bureaus that accept faxes, Trans Union and Equifax, and mailed the letters to Experian.

**TIP 18. WATCH OUT FOR BENEFICIAL, MONEY STORE AND OTHER "HIGH INTEREST" LENDERS THAT HURT YOUR SCORE.**

I had a relationship with Beneficial Finance for many years since they financed a keyboard purchase for me in my 20s. However, I found out that having Beneficial on your credit report hurts your score! Many consumers are unaware of this and may not realize that they are walking around with a lower credit score because of this. Beneficial charges high interest rates and they may be seen as a "lender of last resort" by the credit scoring gurus. Let the consumer beware.

**TIP 19. CONSOLIDATE YOUR DEBT ON A HIGHER LIMIT CARD.**

Remember it is not how much credit card debt you have, but how much credit card debt you have in comparison to your card limit. It is good if your balance is 75 percent or less of your credit card limit. If you have two credit cards maxed out at \$5000 each, and you get offered a 20 thousand dollar credit card, it might be better to transfer balances onto the 20 thousand dollars card. Just one thing: don't max this one out as well!

**TIP 20. HAVE THREE TO FIVE LINES OF CREDIT**

If you have a mortgage, a car loan, and three credit cards you have five lines of credit. Three to five is seen as ideal. More than that may be seen as excessive.

**TIP 21. HOMEOWNERS ARE PREFERRED**

When you are filling out the loan application is always seen as preferable if you are homeowner. Homeowners are seen as more predictable since they move less often, and it is easy to find them because lenders know where they live! I rented out my house in California for a while but on loan applications when I was asked "do you own your own home" I would say "yes". Yes is always the better answer to the question "do you own your own home?"

**TIP 22. FIND OUT WHICH CREDIT BUREAU YOUR CAR DEALER USES**

One trick is to know which credit score is the highest. For instance, right now my Experian score is 680 and the others are lower. Then, call different car dealers or auto finance companies until you find the one that uses, in my example, Experian. You then use that dealer and get a better loan!



### **TIP 23. PAY BEFORE THE GRACE PERIOD ON YOUR CREDIT CARDS**

This trick is worth money in the bank. If your credit card balance is over 50%-75% of your credit card limits, your credit score will hurt to the tune of 50-80 points! Having high credit card balances is a real killer. It makes sense to pay down your balances, especially before you apply for credit. However, picture this. On your credit card payment due date (mine is the 18th), your credit card company automatically sends the balance information to your credit bureaus via computer. That means if you pay down your balance but after the due date, even if within the grace period, the balance doesn't show as lower for a whole month longer. Even if you "ride" the credit bureaus through your fax machine through the numbers I provided, it might take a week or more to update the balance, and as long as 30 days. Pay before your due date and you will have a better credit score. Period.

### **TIP 24. TOUGH CREDITOR? DO A CREDIT AUDIT!**

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act you have the right to ask tough creditors for proof that you were late, didn't pay, etc. Write them a letter giving them 10 days to give you proof you were late, including all cancelled checks and backs of checks, etc. Tell them they must remove the derogatory item if they cannot provide proof. If they do not provide proof, write them another letter telling them they must delete the item (send all letters with mailing receipt). Then send a copy of your letters to the credit bureaus saying they were not able or willing to prove you were late. For some people this works like a charm.

### **TIP 25. IT'S A SUE HAPPY COUNTRY. SUE!**

You can take an ornery creditor to small claims court, claiming monetary damages and injury for the item you believe is wrong. You are taking the creditor to court in your city, and if they haven't provided proof of your lateness, or if you feel you have another claim, you can invite them to small claims court in front of someone "older and wiser" that can decide the issue for you. The company may see this as a nuisance suit and choose to just delete.

If you like, you can hire a lawyer that specializes in the Fair Credit Reporting Act. There are some attorneys that will write letters and file suits for you. Since they tend to be picky about suits they want to take on, you might just take the creditor to court yourself in small claims. Ask for an injunction from reporting the negative item in the future. If you would like letters written in powerful legal language to write to your creditors, see the sample letters.

## DEFINITIONS

### Credit Score-What is it?

Your credit score is now the most important factor that lenders use to evaluate your credit worthiness. Your credit score is a 3 digit score calculated by the credit bureaus from your credit history. This score was once called the FICO or Beacon score it was invented by Fair Isaac, a company that created a way to predict your chances of credit failure using just your credit report. The credit score was invented about seven years ago by some Ph.D.s at Fair Isaac: this system gained more popularity in recent years and now each of the three main credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion licenses Fair Isaac's system for generating credit scores. Each credit bureau uses the Fair Isaac software to calculate their version of your score. Nowadays, people like you and me applying for home loans or car loans are nothing but a "number", our credit score. For example, my credit scores at the time of this writing are TransUnion: 618, Experian 637, and Equifax 650.

### What's Considered a Good Credit Score?

Your credit score can range from 200 to 850. Lenders will give you home loans or car loans at about credit score of 500 and up. However, the Golden score is considered to be 720. 720 is the magic score for getting any type of credit including nothing-down home loans, loans with no income verification, home loans with an equity line included, etc. Want one of those car loans that have zero percent interest? Have a 720 credit rating. If you don't have a 720, try for a 660. A 660 means you can get a no income verification loan, something good for self-employed people. You can also get a five percent down loan when purchasing a home with a 660. If you don't have a 660, try for a 620. If your middle score is 620 or better, you can still get a no income verification loan, a 10 percent down home loan, and other things. That leads us to the next question: what is a middle score?

### What is a Middle Score?

Mortgage lenders pull credit reports from all three bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. They then look at the middle score. For instance when I was buying a 4 plex last month I had a 580 with TransUnion, a 622 with Equifax and a 634 with Experian, thus my middle score was 622. Good news, my middle score was with Equifax, and using techniques from this book (see Example of boosting your score in 24 hours, Tip 5).

### Credit Bureaus - What are they?

There are three major credit bureaus - Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Traditionally, Experian (used to be called "TRW") had the most market share, about 70%, although now Equifax is gaining more popularity. TransUnion is lagging behind. So if you are applying for a home loan or car loan, these agencies act as "credit reporting agencies".

Your lenders will subscribe to them and use them for "pulling" your credit report and checking out your history. These agencies are subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, which says that derogatory items can stay on your report for 7 years, so for instance if you had a phone bill go to collection that can show for 7 years. If you had a bankruptcy, lien, charge off, repossession or any type of derogatory credit item that can show on your report for 7 years. If you had a foreclosure (gave a house back to the lender for non-payment) this can stay on your report for 10 years. The good thing is, you can "dispute" these derogatory items with the credit bureaus online, on the phone or by mail, and many times these things will fall off, either because they are false or the creditor in question loses interest in reporting your derogatory item. See the next section on disputes for more information.

### What is a Dispute or Investigation? Why does it boost my Credit Score?

#### Why does it boost my credit score?

You have heard that "disputing" or "investigating" derogatory items will help boost your credit rating. This is true, in fact, there are "credit consultants" that charge 7 hundred dollars to merely make use of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the law that lets you dispute or investigate your derogatory credit items on your credit report. By law, you're able to contact each credit bureau for a credit report, you can buy them 8 dollars each online, or by phone (the latter comes in the mail). You are then able to get the "confirmation number" from each credit report and contact the credit bureaus to dispute any items that you feel are inaccurate, or that you want off your report. From the time that you dispute any item on your credit report, the credit bureaus have 30 days to contact the creditors and verify that the items in fact belong to you and are accurate. The reason this helps your credit score is not only does it clean the inaccurate items from the report but many times even the accurate items drop off as creditors lose interest in verifying the truth, especially when you have paid and the item is more than a year old. So, things like charge offs, repossessions, bankruptcies, liens, collections, and other derogatory items can all come off your credit report via the "dispute".

### What is a Deletion Letter? What is a Payoff Letter? Why does it boost my credit score?

One of the best-kept secrets of credit repair is that the quickest way to boost your credit score is to remove any outstanding collections. Many people have small collection items on their credit report, for instance unpaid phone bills, unpaid medical bills, charge card balances and other small collection items that are showing as outstanding debt. Even an unpaid collection item of 25 dollars can hurt your credit score by 20 points and more. So the quickest way to repair your credit is to call up the collection agency that you owe money to and ask this "golden question", which is "Do you delete"? Many people don't realize that collection agencies will voluntarily delete your derogatory item from your current report if you just ask them to and pay them the balance that you owe. Fifty percent of the time, the answer to the question "do you delete" is "yes". What's even better, you can ask for to obtain a "deletion letter" that is proof that the creditor in question intends to delete the item from your credit bureau file.

#### Why is a deletion letter important?

Because a lot of times you're looking to improve your credit score NOW, because you're applying for a home loan or car loan right now, and normally the creditor or collection agency would take 30 to 90 days to update your credit report with the bureaus. If you obtain a deletion letter, you can fax it to the credit bureaus using the information in this book, to get your collection off your credit report within a few days.

#### What is a payoff letter?

If you have paid off a loan, for instance a house or a car, sometimes this is still showing as any debt on your credit report-it hasn't been taken off yet. For example, recently I sold a house in California and I had to obtain a payoff letter from the holders of the first and second mortgages so I could show my new lender that I had paid those loans successfully. Loan payoffs look great on your credit report, you may notice that as soon as you have paid off a lot alone or home loan that you start getting advertising mail inviting you to sign up with more credit cards. When creditors see that you have paid off a loan that encourages them. By the way, if you have a collection agency that will not delete, just keep disputing with the credit bureaus over and over again and also you can also try faxing the collection agency letters directly every week until they tire from all your persistence and they let your disputes expire without answering. In other words, your collection agency may just get tired of servicing your derogatory item and they may let it fall off- especially if you tell them that you are applying for a home or auto loan.

## APPENDIX

### Contact Info - Credit Bureaus

| Company           | Phones/Fax  | Address                              | Accepts Deletions By Fax For Quicker Results | Accepts Disputes Online For Quicker Results |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Experian</b>   | 800-583-4080<br>888 Experian<br>No Public Fax           | 710 Experian Pkwy<br>Allen TX 75013  | No   | Yes   |
| <b>Equifax</b>    | 866-838-1050/<br>800-525-6285/<br>404-885-8000<br>(Fax) | P.O. Box 740256<br>Atlanta, GA 30374 | Yes  | Yes   |
| <b>TransUnion</b> | 800-916-8800/<br>800-680-7289/<br>610-546-4605          | P.O. Box 2000<br>Chester, PA 1902    | Yes  | No  |