

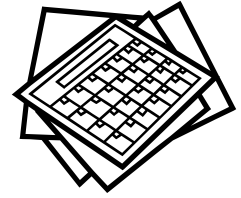
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July 2006 Newsletter

Center For Siouxland

July, 2006

Just a Reminder

Please remember to write your name legibly on your money orders. If we cannot read the name we cannot pay out to your creditors.
Thank You!



Dates to Remember

* **CCCC is closed every Thursday from 9:00—10:00.**

* **CCCC is closed July 3rd & July 4th.**

* **CCCC is closed from 9:00—10:00 Wednesday July 26th.**

* **CWCID Module I— July 24th. 10:00—11:00 and 5:30—6:30.**

* **CCCC will be closed at 12:00 on Friday July 28th.**

Know Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies (credit report). Here is a summary of your major rights under the FCRA.

- You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.
- You have the right to know what is in your file.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.
- Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.
- Access to your file is limited.
- You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.

For more information on your rights, you may contact your state or local consumer protection agency, or your state Attorney General.



Have a happy and safe 4th of July celebration!

Learning About Your Credit Score

A credit score is a number calculated by the credit reporting agencies to assess your probability of repaying loans. Most credit reports have credit scores. Knowing your score is vital to your financial stability. Your score is based on: One, the amount of outstanding debt you have. Two, the number of inquiries that have been made about your credit history. Three, the number of open credit accounts you have. Four, the timeliness of your loan payments. In other words, if your payments are made on time or not.

Credit scores are a way of determining credit risk, or the probability that a loan will be repaid. The higher the score, the lower the risk. People with high credit scores receive more benefits than people with low credit scores. A number of things can have a bad effect on, or lower your credit score. They include:

- ◆ Taking more than 30 days to pay your bills, or poor payment performance.
- ◆ Missing, incomplete or incorrect information on your credit report, known

as errors and omissions.

- ◆ Requests or inquires from lenders for information about your credit history.
- ◆ And legal actions against you because of an unpaid debt, such as collections, charge-offs, judgments, liens, foreclosures, bankruptcies, debt adjustments and repossessions.

Credit scores typically range from 300 points to 900 points. A credit score above 700 points is very good. A score below 580 points needs some work to raise it. In the mortgage industry, anything above 620 points is usually an acceptable credit score for the purpose of receiving a mortgage loan. The higher your credit score, the better your credit worthiness and the more benefits you will receive.

You can raise your credit score: Use these tips:

- ◆ Keep your account balances below 50% of the amount owed on your credit card accounts.
- ◆ If you have many debts, try to pay off one each month.
- ◆ If you have one or two

credit accounts with no outstanding balance, do not close the accounts.

- ◆ Having one or two accounts with no outstanding balances will raise your credit score.
- ◆ Limit the use of revolving department store accounts with high interest rates.
- ◆ If you have trouble paying your debts, contact your creditors. They will work with you to help you make your payments.
- ◆ And, consider seeing a non-profit counselor to help you work out payment arrangements with your creditors.

If you find a mistake on your credit report you can write to the three credit reporting agencies, point out the error, and try to provide proof of the mistake. You can contact Center For Consumer Credit Counseling to get instructions and pre-addressed forms for the purpose of making updates to your credit report.

