



w/ The Frugal CREDITNISTA



By Netiva Heard

DIY Credit Repair Guide

www.SoarMyScores.com

LEGAL NOTICE

I have strived to be as accurate and complete as possible in the creation of this Guide, notwithstanding the fact that my team does not warrant or represent at any time that the contents within are 100% accurate due to the rapidly changing nature our consumer laws.

While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this Guide, I assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein. Any perceived slights of specific persons, peoples, or organizations are unintentional. Readers are cautioned to apply their own judgment about their individual circumstances to act accordingly.

This book is not intended for use as a source of legal, business, accounting or financial advice. All readers are advised to seek services of competent professionals in legal, business, accounting, and finance field.

Index

Chapter 1	What is Credit Repair?
Chapter 2	Do you need Credit Repair?
Chapter 3	The Credit System
	The Credit Bureaus
	Your Creditors
	The Truth Finally Revealed
Chapter 4	Credit Repair Effectiveness
	The Credit Repair Secret
	What Makes Credit Repair Effective
	OCR
	e-OSCAR
Chapter 5	How to Get a Free Copy of Your Credit Report
Chapter 6	How to Read a Credit Report
Chapter 7	Credit Bureau Addresses
Chapter 8	How to Dispute to the Credit Bureaus
	2 Character Credit Bureau Dispute Reason Codes
	Dispute them All, or Just a Few?
	What Should be Included with Your Dispute Letters
	Finding the Best Dispute Letter in your Library
	Complete and Mail Your Dispute Letter
	Waiting for and Checking Your Results
	Do it Again
Chapter 9	Credit Bureau Stall tactics
	No IDs, This Might be Fraud

Index

	This is Frivolous
Chapter 10	Identity theft
	Police Report
	Identify Theft Federal Trade Commission Complaint
	Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Complaint Assist System
	Filing the Complaint with the Credit Bureaus
Chapter 11	Fraud Alerts
	Placing a Fraud Alert on your Report
	The Fraud Fix
Chapter 12	Pay to delete
	Understanding the Collection Process
	When to Use Pay-to-Delete
	How to Get an Item Deleted By Pay-to-Delete
	If They Say Yes
	If They Say No
	Success
Chapter 13	Legal Liability versus Credit
Chapter 14	Statute of Limitations (SoL)
Chapter 15	Advanced Dispute Tactics
	How the Advanced Letters Work
	Mailing Advanced Letters
Chapter 16	Summary



What is Credit Repair?

To put it simply, credit repair is the deletion of incorrect, incomplete, unverifiable information from your credit report. I'm sure you've seen the advertisements of "Foreclosures, Bankruptcies, Tax Liens – All of It Can Be Deleted!!!" I won't say it's as easy as these commercials make it seem, but credit repair can definitely make a vast improvement to poor credit scores.

How? By systematically disputing inaccurate, erroneous, and unverifiable entries on your credit report. This guide will outline the credit repair process for you in easy to follow steps.

Credit repair was made possible by the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1971. This law gave regular consumers like you and me key rights to ensuring our credit reports are completely accurate. If we notice any errors; we have the right to dispute those inaccuracies for removal or update. The exact language in the Act reads:

"If the completeness or accuracy of any item of information contained in a consumer's file at a consumer reporting agency is disputed by the consumer and the consumer notifies the agency directly of such dispute, the agency shall reinvestigate, free of charge, and record the current status of the disputed information, or delete the item from the file in accordance with paragraph (5), before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the agency receives the notice of the dispute from the consumer."

The FCRA has gone through many updates, amendments, and changes over the last few decades; with new sections being added and more rights being extended to us. In 2003, The Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act (FACTA) was added, which allowed us to obtain a free copy of our credit reports each year from annualcreditreport.com. Before this, we could only receive a free report if we had been denied credit. This was epic for us because we can't repair what we don't know is there; this law made it possible for us to take the initial steps of credit repair; which is getting our hands on that credit report! Once we've pulled it, we can then begin to analyze it and challenge any inaccuracies.

Once an item is challenged or disputed, it becomes the creditor's responsibility to respond to those disputes by validating their accuracy or deleting them from our reports. Credit bureaus, collection agencies, and original creditors are obligated to comply; the FCRA is law; and the law is on our side!

This law, the language it contains, and our rights as a consumer to challenge what may be in our credit report, are the foundations on which the credit repair process was built.

In this guide you will learn exactly how the credit bureau system works and how to conquer it. You will discover how to use the complex credit bureau OCR and e-OSCAR computer systems to work to your advantage, instead of for your creditors' advantage.

You will even learn some Advanced Dispute Tactics. The Fair Credit Reporting Act is not the only law that will help insure our credit is fixed fast; with the Advanced Dispute Methods you'll know how to get it done. With tools like these you will soon have the excellent credit you deserve.

Do You Need Credit Repair?

Credit is POWER! Many would have you believe that it's optional or economically crippling; however if you take a look at the majority of our payments each month; you'll find that each one is tied to our credit risk.

Home loans, rent, car payments, credit cards, installment loans, car insurance, cell phones, health and life insurance, and even monthly utilities are all based on the quality of our credit. Today, more and more new employers are relying on credit reports to help make hiring decisions.

Good credit leads to financial peace of mind, and the quality of life that goes with it.

You won't have to hold your breath every time a merchant swipes your card. You won't have to put down a security deposit when applying for utilities or miss out on an incredible promotion because of the items adversely affecting your credit reports!

This kit will help you get the excellent credit you deserve, and the dream life that accompanies it.

The Credit System

Considering how important your credit is, you would think that ***someone*** is ensuring your credit report reflects legitimate and accurate information.

But the sad truth is NOBODY is watching this for you. You are the ONLY person involved with your credit who benefits from your credit profile being positive and accurate.

This is why it's so vital to review your credit reports on a regular basis. With the amount of credit errors totally almost 80%; you don't want any errors preventing you from achieving financial peace of mind.

The Credit Bureaus

There are 3 main credit reporting agencies; Trans Union, Equifax, and Experian. These are private for profit companies who make money by selling consumer information.

Your credit profile is made up of data collected by your existing and past creditors which they report to the credit bureaus on a regular basis. The bureaus make a profit by selling this information in reports, leads, and other methods to creditors who use it to either issue additional credit or solicit you for new credit.



For example, when a creditor such as CHASE wants to offer consumers new credit, they purchase a data list from the credit bureaus. This list might consist of consumers with credit scores from 550-620

The bureaus then profit by selling that list to CHASE, and CHASE will use the list to send mailers soliciting you to apply for their credit card.

In the data selling world, sub-prime credit is always more valuable. Simply put, a creditor will pay more for a list of consumers who are 30 days late on their mortgage than a consumer with a perfect pay history. Why? It's all about supply and demand – people with poor credit are willing to pay more for additional credit.



Very few companies want information on consumers with perfect payment history; so this data has a low value. But there are a significant number of sub-prime companies who will pay top dollar for data on poorer credit risk individuals.

Sub-prime credit card companies, auto and home loan, credit repair, loan modification, short sale companies, and even debt consolidation are just a few of the kinds of companies who pay big money for these types of leads.

Companies also pay more for “triggers” or “selects” for consumer leads. This means they pay more for bankruptcy leads, high credit card balances, late payments on credit cards, accounts in

COLLECTIONS status, 30-90 day late payments, foreclosures, and even late payments on mortgages.

CHASE won't pay much for a list of good credit customers. In comparison, a bankruptcy company will pay a lot more for a list of consumers who were 90 days late on one or more of their accounts in the past 3-6 months.

That list is much more specific, and would cost about TWICE as much to purchase from the bureaus. So the credit bureaus actually make MORE money the worse your credit is.



This is NOT an opinion, but a clear FACT. As you should now be able to see, it is simply NOT in the credit bureaus' best interest to help ensure your credit report is 100% accurate.

Actually, they make more money if your credit is bad. The only reason they allow you to dispute accounts on your report is that they are obligated by law to do so.

Your Creditors

Creditors charge interest based on our risk. The higher our risk; the more interest we pay. In most cases, our risk is obtained by our credit scores; the lower the scores the higher the interest rates.

Credit card companies don't make anything on 0% cards. But the minute you go late on your payment, your interest rate skyrockets. This is where they make their money -- from 13% and higher interest rate charges.



A published study shows that some companies make 3 times more money on their sub-prime clients than they do on their prime clients.

The worse your credit is, the more your creditors charge, and the more profits they make from you.

Look at your credit reports under 'Soft' or 'Promotional Inquiries'. You'll see that some of your creditors check your credit report on a regular basis. They are looking for a decrease in score or new negative information reporting that can prompt them to raise your interest rates, ***even if you've never been late on your account with them!***

What does this tell you? That BOTH creditors *and* the credit bureaus make more money the worst your credit is. Our bad credit actually benefits them, so don't expect them to spend any time ensuring that our credit profile is 100% accurate – that's our job!

We are the ONLY people dealing with our credit who benefit by having an accurate and positive credit profile. So, take it upon yourself to repair and manage your own credit as our creditors will NEVER do this for us.

The Truth, FINALLY

In one published study, 93% of credit reports contained inaccuracies. In most of those cases the inaccuracies were enough to adversely affect loan qualification.

In every published study on this topic over 62% of reports contained inaccuracies. Most reports ARE inaccurate. And in many cases, these inaccuracies are NOT a fluke. Many creditors intentionally change minor details on the reporting of a credit item to reflect negatively against the consumer.



Some of these common actions include changing the date-of-last activity on a credit report; making the derogatory account report appear as more recent, which drastically lowers the credit score as a result.

Another common tactic is to report the same debt on the credit report with different account numbers, making it look like there are multiple negative accounts and not just one.

This also happens with collections. The account is reported by the original creditor with a balance unpaid; and then multiple collection companies also report the same account against the consumer.

These are only a few of the common schemes creditors use to further damage our credit reports. All of these methods result in substantial damage to our credit profile, and NONE of these actions will be corrected unless we challenge them with the credit bureaus and creditors.

The credit system is SUPPOSED to be fair, but time and again that proves to be false. If we are late on an account, that account can negatively report against us for 7 years before its deleted.

However, in some cases the creditor will extend the date-of-last activity, which keeps the negative item on our report for a total 10 years or more! On top of that, the account can be sold to multiple collection agencies and each of them will report negative information about us. That single credit item could easily be reported against us up to 4 different times; causing 4

times more damage. AND, every time that collection shows up, it is reported as a NEW collection, making the damage to our credit reports even greater. What's fair about that?

The TRUTH is that most creditors do this intentionally, secure in the belief that consumers will not challenge what's on their reports. Think about that. The credit bureaus have nothing to gain by stopping this, so they let it continue. In fact, they have a lot to lose if more consumers actively sought to repair their credit.

Creditors and the credit reporting bureaus spend millions on campaigns trying to convince you that credit repair doesn't work. They want you to believe that there is nothing you can do to stop this; so most of us don't even bother to try.



You are the only person in the credit equation who has an interest in ensuring your credit is good, and your report is accurate. If you don't take steps to have good credit, your creditors and the bureaus definitely will not do this for you. They have absolutely no incentive to do so.

Credit Repair Effectiveness

"Credit repair doesn't work." Today, this statement has taken on the quality of an urban legend. Even those who actually do credit repair will make this statement just to distance themselves from the negative stigma associated with the term "Credit Repair".

As discussed earlier, creditors spend millions-of-dollars each year trying to convince consumers just like you and me that there is nothing we can do to repair our credit.



As a result, most people have heard that credit repair doesn't work at all, and they believe it. This is exactly what the creditors and the bureaus want you to believe. They want to paralyze us so that we won't even try to dispute our inaccuracies.

But the truth is radically different than the myth and the legend. The truth is credit repair is the most effective way we can actually improve your credit.

The Credit Repair Secret

Credit repair is extremely effective. But results will vary GREATLY depending on your own knowledge and the methodology you use to dispute items on your report.

Simply mailing off angry letters to the credit bureaus without fully understanding how their OCR and E-Oscar computers work will not yield positive results.



Going online to dispute the credit bureaus without knowing what you're doing will be no more effective than sending letters.

One of the main reasons credit repair is not as effective as it should be is that it is rarely executed properly.

In this Credit Repair Kit you will learn the “dos and the don'ts” of the process. In addition, you will have access to the knowledge you need to do the job right, and access to the most advanced dispute tactics in the credit repairing industry.

If you follow the system I lay out for you, you will start to see positive results in as little as 40 days.

What Makes Credit Repair Effective

In the past credit repair methods were largely restricted to bombarding the credit bureaus with letters. The hope was to mail lots of disputes to the bureaus, confusing both the person entering the disputes and the person at the creditor receiving the disputes. The belief was that if the creditor didn't respond in time, the item would be removed.

These types of methods are rarely effective anymore. Even if items get deleted, they are usually put back on the credit report shortly after.



How are items put back on your report? **Even though creditors have 30 days to respond to the dispute before it is deleted, a response 60 days after the fact still gives them the legal right to put the item back on the report.**

To effectively and permanently delete negative credit items, you have to ensure the item did not get deleted because the creditor or credit bureaus made a mistake, or couldn't verify the item.

Once you know how to do that, the item will be deleted and stays permanently off your report.

Over the years the credit bureaus have gotten much smarter. Most of the dispute process is now automated through two computer systems the credit bureaus use. The key to success in disputing items on your report is understanding how these computers work.

OCR

OCR (Optical Character Recognition) is the credit bureaus first line of defense against your disputes. It's a massive program that "reads" every dispute letter you send into the credit bureaus.



The computer basically "scan" reads your dispute letter to uncover several things. First it attempts to see if the dispute is legitimate or 'frivolous.'

The system automatically categorizes the disputes, and flags some of them as a stalling tactic if they feel you are actually trying to improve your credit score instead of just disputing one account about which you might have a question.

OCR also stores these disputes in a detailed database and auto categorizes them with a dispute reason code. These codes can prevent you from submitting the dispute again. In that case, the system will detect the code and the dispute will not be investigated, and instead be flagged as "frivolous".

In theory, OCR was designed to reduce credit bureau human error. In practice it ensures your disputes are stalled or voided at any chance it gets.

It will even read your letters including the font, paper, color of font, spelling, and other variables to try to see if you have used that letter before, OR if you are using a template letter to dispute.

If OCR thinks you are using a template letter which has been used before by Many other consumers, or sees another dispute for the same account with a similar reason, it marks your dispute as frivolous and won't conduct an investigation on the items you are disputing.



Even if it accepts your dispute letter, it auto categorizes it and processes the dispute with no human intervention of any kind.

This is EXACTLY why you NEVER want to dispute online. When you dispute online, you remove the possibility of humans ever getting involved in the process. Online disputes make it much easier for OCR to validate the dispute and keep the item on your credit report.

OCR is also the reason you don't want to just send in letters to the credit bureau without knowing what you are doing.

If you dispute for a similar reason twice, the item is then listed as frivolous, making it very hard to dispute again. The same applies if you are using a common dispute letter or a credit improvement company **who doesn't custom tailor their disputes.**

If OCR picks these things up, your dispute results will suffer, making it much harder to ever get those items deleted.

Success with OCR



The trick is to use any method you can use to confuse OCR and get your disputes out of that system and into the hands of an actual person. There are many ways you can accomplish this.

One of the first successful methods you can use is to write your disputes on heavy stock paper. Sounds a bit gimmicky, but OCR can't be fed thick "card stock". With this kind of paper you almost automatically get your disputes in front of a human being.

ALWAYS change your fonts on your letters if typing them out, and change the color of your fonts. Make sure you misspell words so the disputes don't look like they are coming from a professional credit repair company. Don't be afraid to use bad grammar either, as sentences that don't make sense can confuse OCR.

Hand writing your dispute letters is another tactic. This is one of the most proven methods to get your letters to bypass OCR. There are some other things you can do with your hand written letter to further better your odds of getting past OCR, such as using a light colored pen or marker to write your disputes. You can also use colored pen and pencil, but make sure you misspell words and add sentences that don't make sense.

Don't get carried away with this and return to your childhood years and make letters that are difficult to read or completely illegible. Always remember your main goal when disputing to the credit bureaus is to bypass OCR and get your letters in front of an old-fashioned, real-live human being. That's what you need to keep in mind to get maximum success.

Is this method a 'must do'? Absolutely not. I've had great success printing letters from my computer, making sure to sound as authentic as possible without making my clients sound like babbling idiots. BUT, I may print the letter out on stationary, use different sized papers and envelopes, or staple the heck out of that paper and envelope to get the letter in the hands of a human being (few more tricks 😊).

e-OSCAR

e-OSCAR (*Online Solution for Complete and Accurate Reporting*) is the web based automated dispute system used by all three credit bureaus. This is the computer where the credit bureaus input disputes. From here the disputes are delivered to the creditor or Data Furnisher whose item you are disputing.

Again, the best success in disputing comes from human confusion and error. E-OSCAR is one more way the credit bureaus automate the process to try to eliminate the possibility of human error. But these are the very errors you as a disputer want to prey on to get some of your negative and inaccurate items deleted.

E-OSCAR reads your dispute letter and assigns it a 2 digit reason code. The code reflects the reason for the dispute; such as the account is not yours, you were never late, etc.

This is the ONLY content that is pulled out of your dispute letters, and the only content your creditors and the bureaus care about. They look at what account you are disputing, and the reason for the dispute.

It doesn't matter to them if your letter comes from an attorney, or if your story reads like a Greek tragedy. All they care about is the reason code. Regardless of whether your dispute letter ends up with OCR or a human at the credit bureaus, the only thing they enter is the REASON for your dispute, in a code format.

The creditor responsible for the item under dispute never sees the letter. **The only information the creditor gets is the account that is being disputed, the name of the consumer who is disputing it, and the 2 character reason code for why the account is being disputed.**

The creditor then validates the account as accurate, or acknowledges that the disputed item is incorrect and deletes it. If the creditor fails to respond within 30 days, the credit bureaus delete the item.



Again, all the creditor has to do is verify the account on their end, and in one click they can validate the item if they find it to be accurate.

Documentation you had to support your case never made it to the creditor.

There have even been court cases against the credit bureaus in this matter due to their method's complete lack of any real investigation into the validity of a dispute.

In two of those cases --Cushman Versus Trans Union and Stevenson Versus Trans Union ---the credit bureaus lost since they were found to do nothing more than copy the creditor's information instead of actually investigating.

E-Oscar automation is a beautiful thing for the credit industry as it eliminates most of the actual investigation completely; as well as getting rid of most human errors on the part of both the credit bureau and creditor.

Success with e-OSCAR

Don't be disheartened. Since e-OSCAR is only a computer, like any computer, it can be beaten. You just need to understand how it works and know what to do to beat the system.

All disputes come from e-OSCAR as an Automated Universal Data Form.

The next page has a copy of this form so you can see the basic questions that are asked. At the top right you can also see the section for the 2 character dispute code.



The first way to beat e-OSCAR is to use the methods mentioned earlier in the OCR section. The methods should confuse OCR enough that it will pass your information along into the hands of a human instead of directly to e Oscar. The human "investigator" will then input the information manually into e-OSCAR which is your first window for an error to be made.

Another successful way to deal with e-OSCAR is to mail disputes to multiple credit bureau addresses (again totally optional but a tactic that some credit professionals use). You might not know this but the credit bureaus maintain these different addresses as a tactic to confuse YOU, so a little turnabout is definitely fair play here!

UNIVERSAL DATA FORM							
This form has been approved for reporting or updating account information. ☐ New ☐ Change ☒ Delete DO NOT DELETE PAID IN FULL ACCOUNTS.							
(Do not include security passwords with codes below.)							
Subscriber Name:	[Redacted]				Equifax Subscriber Code:	_____	
Subscriber Address:	[Redacted]				CCA Subscriber Code:	_____	
					TRW Subscriber Code:	_____	
					TU Subscriber Code:	_____	
CONSUMER INFORMATION							
Surname	First	M.I.	Suffix	SSN	DOB/Age		
Current Address		City		State	Zip		
Previous Address		City		State	Zip	Telephone, if Available	
ADDITIONAL SPOUSE INFORMATION (Complete only if joint access)							
Surname	First	M.I.	Suffix	SSN	DOB/Age		
Spouse Address (if different)		City		State	Zip		
Account Number	Date Placed For Collection	Original Amount	Balance Date	Balance	DLA Date		
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]			
Client Name/Original Creditor	Note: Be sure to include agency subscriber code, signature and current date. Reasons for deleting accounts must be provided. Client name is required.				Place On Locate (Y/N)	ECOA	
[Redacted]							

Now you can use the credit bureaus' multiple addresses against them to get your negative items deleted. First, prepare your dispute letters, and make 5 copies.

Next, sign all your letters, and mail them to 5 of the credit bureaus addresses. Make sure you mail them within 2 days of each other. Then wait for the response and see the results.

I'll provide you with a list of credit bureau addresses in the Credit Bureau Address section in this guide.

What happens at the bureaus? Multiple people at different bureau locations receive the disputes at about the same time. They then input the dispute character code into e-OSCAR and the dispute is delivered to the creditors.

The creditor will then see multiple red flags showing an item has been disputed - 5 disputes for the same account. In most cases they will delete 4 of the 5, and respond to only 1. In reality,

what they are doing is failing to respond to 4 disputes, which will result in the item being deleted 30 days later.

The creditor thinks they validated the item to which they responded, but in reality the item is deleted. The deletion will be permanent since the creditor mistakenly believes it's been validated.

These tactics are effective in overwhelming and confusing both the bureaus and the creditors. Taken together with the methods I've outlined in the OCR section, they will help you efficiently dispute and delete many of your derogatory account items.

How to Get a Free Copy of Your Credit Report

There is only one true way to get a free copy of your credit report with no strings attached -- request your report online at www.annualcreditreport.com.

You can also download the request form at www.ftc.gov/credit and mail it to Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

You can also call toll-free to receive your credit report at 1-877-322-8228.

You should be able to download your credit report immediately on the Annual Credit Report website. It will take up to 15 days to receive your report if ordering by mail or phone.



I strongly recommend that you sign up with a credit monitoring service. This way you can still receive your free credit report immediately, but you can also receive new reports every 30 days to track your credit results.

There are many credit monitoring services out there. Some of the most popular sites are www.CreditKarma.com (free), www.IdentityIQ.com, and www.MyFico.com. Their pricing runs between \$9.99-\$15.99 monthly.

I recommend Identity IQ because it provides you with the credit date of all 3 of the major credit bureaus, along with \$1 Million in Identity Theft Protection. With the amount of data breaches going on today, this is an added benefit that I like to provide for my students and clients. My FICO is excellent but expensive; if you're not buying something in the next 3 months, I'd pass.

PrivacyGuard.com is also a good option; they used to use a consumer educational scoring model. The problem with this scoring model is that nobody in the “real world” uses it. Car dealers, mortgage companies, and just about everyone else use a “Fair Isaac” or FICO model of some sort. They have now moved over to the Vantage Scoring Model, which is used by a little over 10% of the marketplace.

What about Credit Karma? Well, it’s free ☺. For my students with tight budgets we make it work; it uses the Vantage Scoring Model which is a competitor of FICO. Over 10% of creditors use Vantage, and over ½ of them only use it to compare to FICO scores. Basically, FICO is king in the scoring model industry. If you get a free score from your credit card or bank; Credit Karma can work.



Again, the benefit of credit monitoring services is being able to easily compare your reports month-to-month to see what was on the older report, and what has been deleted or updated on the newer reports.

With this knowledge; you can begin planning your next round of disputes so you can see more improvement in the next 30 days.

You must have an initial credit report before you can get started. The credit bureaus used to send back the updated reports with the dispute results, but recently they have been using a new tactic. Now they don’t even bother to send back full reports; they’ll just send you a summary page showing the results of your dispute; or they’ll send you the pages of the report showing the details of the account that was updated.

If you don’t have a monitoring service, and they don’t send back the reports, you have a very tough challenge ahead. You would have to re-dispute an account from the initial report, and then wait another 40-45 days to see if they send back results then. You would lose a lot of time; as much as several months’ worth when you add it all up.

If you’re serious about repairing your credit, you need to do everything you can do to sign up for a monitoring service. This step is crucial.

With a good credit monitoring service you will get to enjoy watching your improvement, so make this one of your first steps in the credit repair process.

How to read a credit report

You will want to become very familiar with your credit report during the repair process. The more you know the better equipped you are to accurately dispute and delete your negative credit items.

After you sign up for a credit monitoring service, sit down with your credit report and go through it section by section, highlighting all the negative items you want to address in your disputes.

Personal Profile

Every credit report has a personal profile section which covers your current and past addresses and employers; your date of birth; and AKA information.



You will first want to start by looking at the spelling of your name and your other aliases, if you have any. You will probably want to dispute any aliases you don't want on your credit report.

In many cases these aliases are the result of people pulling your credit report and misspelling your name. You might apply for a car loan, and when they initially pull your credit there might be a letter off when they enter your name. The credit bureaus link the inquiry to you based on the social security number and address; not your name. The AKA or alias then appears on your credit report. You probably won't want that on your report for the rest of your life. So dispute any of those aliases that you want off your report.

You will also want to look at your address information. If there are previous addresses you don't want listed on your report, addresses you are not familiar with, misspelled addresses; or even relative's addresses; you will probably want to dispute those items to have them removed



Follow the same process with your employment information. Dispute any inaccurate and unwanted information that appears on your report.

Ensure that your name is spelled correctly; your date of birth is correct; and that your social security number is listed accurately.

Take your time and really review this section of your report. This will help reduce identity theft and ensure your credit doesn't get mixed up with others, which is a fairly common occurrence.

Dispute letters for Personal Profile information are provided in the Dispute Template Library that came with this Kit.

Inquiries

An inquiry is placed on your credit report when you apply for any type of new credit. The creditor requests a credit report from the credit bureaus, and an inquiry from that creditor will show on your report.

There are a few concerns you should have about inquiries.

1. They reveal your spending patterns.
2. Lenders will look at how many inquiries you've made in the past 6-12 months when making lending decisions.
3. FICO has found that those who have more than 8 inquiries in the past 12 months are more likely to file bankruptcy.



If you have a lot of inquiries for credit cards in a short period of time, for example, a lender offering a car loan may see you as a higher risk. Conversely, a car dealership might review your inquiries to see where else you've been car shopping at and if you have been previously denied.

Employers will look at your inquiries to see what financial patterns may exist. In a tough employment market, you don't want your future employer reviewing your spending habits before hiring you.

Up to 10% of your total credit score is based on how much new credit you apply for. This aspect of your credit score is based on the inquiries on your credit report.

If you have a lot of inquiries in a short period of time, your credit scores will decrease.

So if you go out next week and apply for a Capital One credit card, your credit scores might decrease 1 point on an 850 point scale. But if you apply for 7 credit cards next week, your scores might drop 20 points due to applying for too much.

Inquiries can lower your credit scores. This is just one more reason you might want to dispute any unauthorized inquiries and have them deleted. Creditors rarely respond to inquiry disputes, so this section of your credit report is easier to clean up.

Summary Section



Each credit report has an account summary section that outlines your entire report. This section shows lots of details including how many accounts you have open, closed, your revolving accounts, installment accounts, real estate accounts, debt outstanding, debt in collections, and more.

Take a good look at each section. Do the balances owed on your accounts look correct? Look at both closed and current accounts. Do those numbers look accurate?

In this section you will also want to compare your information across the different credit bureau' reports. Here you will typically see many differences. Investigate those differences as you review your report.



Don't be surprised to see big differences in what the credit bureaus report. The total amount of open and closed accounts, debt you owe, even balances and payments on individual accounts are always reported inaccurately.

Pay close attention to the Derogatory section of the summary. Look at inquiries, public records, collection accounts, and both current and prior delinquencies.

This is the section you want to see with all 0's when completed with your disputes. This is also a good section to monitor your overall credit progress.

Account History

Many reports break down your account history into account types. One section might be dedicated to real estate accounts, then revolving accounts, installment loans, public records and any other categories for other account types.

Look through each section at the details on each account. You will find the creditor's name, account number, date opened, monthly payment, high balance, past due amount. Each account also shows an Account Status. This might show as a Number from 1-9. It also might report as a status, like open, closed, unpaid, or in collection.

You will definitely want to address any derogatory items disputes.

The account type reflects what kind of credit account it is. Some common tags are Installment, Mortgage, or Revolving.

Account History

Creditor Name													
Account Number	1234-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX												
Account Type	Revolving												
Responsibility	Individual												
Monthly Payment	\$55												
Date Opened	9/1998												
Date Reported	12/1999												
Balance	\$2750												
Credit Limit	\$5000												
High Balance	\$3500												
Past Due	\$0												
Remarks	Current, was 90 days past due												
Payment Status	Current												
Payment History													
Year One													
1998>												1999>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	30	OK	OK	OK	OK	30	60	90	OK

Many times creditors manipulate this data also. Some account types have a greater impact on your credit score, so make sure yours are listed accurately.

You can also review your Payment Status for more details on the account. This will show if it is being reported as a collection; 30 days late; or even paid as agreed. **Thoroughly analyze all accounts that report a negative status.**

The 24 month payment history reflects your payments for the most recent 2 year period. Many monitoring services color code this section, making it easy for you to spot derogatory credit items.

Look for 30, 60, 90, and 120 late payments. You will also want to look for collections, or accounts reported as CO (charged off).

You will want to dispute all of those reported derogatory items using the methods outlined in the Dispute section of this Credit Repair Guide.

Public Records

This section gives you details about all bankruptcies, judgments, tax liens, and all other types of public records. This is one of the most harmful sections of your report, and one that will demand your immediate attention.

Review this section thoroughly. You will find the record type, court docket or account numbers, date filed or originally reported, and other important data that will help in the dispute process.

Rarely will you find that bankruptcies report accurately.

Keep in mind the bankruptcy will remain on your credit for 10 years instead of the 7 years on normal accounts.

Unpaid Judgments can remain on your credit for 10 years or more, and unpaid tax liens can stay on your credit indefinitely. So you will want to pay very special attention to your public records section.

PublicRecords

Bankruptcy	
Type	Chapter7 Bankruptcy
Status	Discharged
Date Filed	3/25/1996
Reference Number	B350578609
Closing Date	5/25/1996
Court	County
Liability	65,700
Exempt Amount	0
Asset Amount	0
Remarks	

I have included some very special disputes for you to use on these more difficult account types.

All the other details

Each credit monitoring service has its own special sections of information they give you on your credit reports.

Credit Check Total outlines many specifics on your report. Some of these are details on factors affecting your credit scores, detailed overviews of credit patterns, and details on more discrepancy items on your reports.

Take the time to review these sections. There is an abundance of information that you are paying for with the service. So enjoy the bonuses.

The Credit Bureau Addresses



Credit bureaus have many addresses; all the better to confuse consumers. Sometimes you might send your disputes to what you think is a valid address, only to see the dispute returned.

These are just a few of the many clever games the credit bureaus play. As discussed in the e-OSCAR section of this guide, you can use these addresses against them and mail the same dispute to multiple addresses.

Whether you are using this tactic, or simply mailing one dispute letter at a time, you will need the credit bureaus' addresses.

Below I have listed some of the many known credit bureau addresses. Use these to mail your disputes to the credit bureaus.

Trans Union

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19022

P.O. Box 1000
Chester, PA 19022

P.O. Box 34012
Fullerton, CA 92831



P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834

P.O. Box 3000
Crum Lynne, PA 19022

Super. Legal Dept.
Trans Union LLC
555 West Adams
Chicago, IL 60661

Experian

P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013-2002

P.O. Box 9556
Allen, TX 75013

P.O. Box 2104
Allen, TX 75013

P.O. Box 9600
Allen, TX 75013

P.O. Box 9702
Allen, TX 75013

475 Anton Blvd
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

701 Experian Parkway, P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
Sup. Legal Dept.
Experian
P.O. Box 1240
Allen, TX 75002



Equifax

P.O. Box 105518
Atlanta, GA 30348

P.O. Box 10596
Atlanta, GA 30348

P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348



P.O. Box 105873
Atlanta, GA 30348

P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30348

P.O. Box 740256
Atlanta, GA 30374
Supervisor Legal Dept, Equifax

P.O. Box 740193
Atlanta, GA 30374

How to Dispute to the Credit Bureaus

The process begins with you sending your dispute letters directly to all three credit bureaus. There is a separate folder in your Credit Repair Kit full of sample dispute letters.

These letters will give you what you need to dispute just about any account type. I designed the letters to offer a dispute “reason” which correlates with the credit bureau reason codes.

2 Character Credit Bureau Dispute Reason Codes

I discussed these reason codes in the e-OSCAR section of this guide. Each dispute must be for a different reason, or the credit bureaus will mark the dispute as frivolous and not investigate it.

FCRA/FACTA does allow the credit bureaus to ignore frivolous disputes, so you want to use the letters I outlined and don't dispute the same account for the same reason, unless you have additional documentation or information to substantiate your dispute.



If you dispute it because it is not yours and then use a similar letter disputing again for the same reason – without proof that the account is not yours - your dispute will be labeled as frivolous with the bureaus and they will not process the dispute.

Once your dispute on that account is listed as frivolous, you have not only wasted a lot of time; you've also reduced your chances of being able to successfully dispute and delete in the future.

This is one of the many reasons you don't want to just blindly send letters into the credit bureaus saying an account is not yours when it really is; that's a total time waster. If you do this, in many cases you actually ruin your chances of getting the item deleted the right way.



Our research has shown approximately 27 reason codes for the credit bureaus. These are 2-3 character codes for each different "reason" you are disputing the account.

The letters I provide you include separate reasons for the dispute. This way, each dispute is for a different reason, and is assigned a different reason code by e-OSCAR. This ensures your disputes won't be labeled as frivolous.

Dispute them all, or just a few?

Many consumers wonder if they should dispute only a few of their negative items or all of them. I have found in extensive research that nothing is lost if you dispute all the accounts.

Remember, OCR usually inputs the disputes into the e-OSCAR computer. If you are using the tactics I advise with OCR, your disputes might confuse OCR enough to send your dispute to humans at the credit bureaus allowing the possibility for more errors to be tackled.

Either OCR or a human will pull your dispute out if you dispute too many accounts. In both cases, their goal is just to get the disputes in the system fast so they can quickly get forwarded to the creditor.

So even though OCR or a human bureau investigator will see your dispute letters, your letters won't be stopped if you are disputing multiple accounts at once.

Once entered into e-OSCAR, those disputes get sent to the creditors one at a time; so your creditors won't know that you are disputing all your accounts at once.

For this reason, you should consider disputing between 5-10 accounts with each round of disputes (I've disputed up to 22 so this is not sketched in stone). You can even include those disputed accounts on the same dispute letter you mail to the credit bureaus.

Disputing this many accounts with each round will lead to much faster results.

Since you don't lose any effectiveness with multiple account disputes, consider doing this with each round you dispute, always trying to dispute 5-10 accounts with each round.

You can put all these on the same dispute letter, so don't waste your time completing separate letters for each disputed item.

You can only have 1 active dispute investigated at a time. This would cause an issue if you mailed out multiple letters for each individual account.

Dispute multiple accounts on the same letter and you will still see very nice results.

What Should be Included with Your Dispute Letters

Our dispute template library gives you the letters you need to get your disputes in the mail. There are several things you want to ensure are included in every dispute letter you send.



First, make sure every dispute letter contains the accurate spelling of your first and last name as well as your social security number and current home address.

The credit bureaus will NOT process a dispute unless they KNOW it is you submitting the dispute. Your social security number is the main way the bureaus link your disputes to your credit report. This means you must clearly identify yourself in your letter, with your social security number provided.

The credit bureaus will also require supporting documentation verifying your identity. They want to see your Driver's License and Social Security Card. They will NOT investigate your disputes without this supporting documentation, so include it with each round of disputes.

If you don't have a driver's license, include another legal form of ID. This can include a passport or state ID. If you don't have a Social Security card, provide another form of ID with your social security on it.

In many cases you can use a pay-stub or W2 form which have both your name and social security number on them.

Just make sure you do supply a picture ID and a document verifying your social security number. Without them your disputes will not be investigated.

You should also include the account name and account number on your letter and the reason for your dispute.

Sometimes creditors report separate account numbers to each of the three bureaus. Make sure your dispute letter has the correct account number for the bureau to which you're submitting the dispute.



Finding the Best Dispute Template in your Library

The Credit Repair Kit's dispute templates give you access to 100 dispute letters. Many of these letters are for general disputing, and others are designed for very specific issues.

Don't get overwhelmed by the large number of letters available for you to choose. I separated your letters based on advanced tactics and credit bureau disputes.

Look at your credit bureau dispute letters. The main difference with many of the letters is the reason in the letter for the dispute.

Remember, you must dispute each time for a different reason to avoid the dispute being labeled as frivolous (unless you have attached additional documentation).



Find the best letter for the reason of your dispute. Is the account yours? Did you pay it late? Does the account belong to someone else? There are many reasons on the letters; just pick which one you feel works best for your situation.

Don't worry if the reason on the letter doesn't *perfectly* match your situation, you are going to personalize it to your situation anyway. The purpose of the dispute letter is to give you guidance and to simply get an investigation started.

If you dispute the account, and the creditor verifies that the account is accurately reporting, you will need to ask for a method of investigation or dispute again for another reason anyway.

This is why you don't want to spend a lot of time finding the perfect reason to dispute. You will probably need to dispute some accounts for multiple reasons during your repair process.

For example, if you know Capital One is your account, don't worry about mailing a letter disputing that it isn't your account. By mailing a dispute for that reason you are simply making the creditor verify the information as they are required to do by law.

If the creditor doesn't have a record of the account anymore, they won't respond or will tell the credit bureaus that it should be deleted. The item would be deleted in this case no matter what reason you chose for the dispute.

Remember, I created these different letters with different reasons to allow you to continue disputing an item without your dispute being labeled as frivolous. Although you will see good results no matter which reason letter you chose, FACTUAL DISPUTES are best.

Therefore, if you do CLEARLY know the account is not valid for a particular reason, dispute for that reason and include any supporting documentation you have.

Don't be surprised if you dispute an account you KNOW is inaccurate and later see that the creditor ends up verifying the account item. Keep in mind, the creditor doesn't always review the evidence you send in with your disputes. You might need to follow our dispute process and send out a few dispute letters; even direct creditor letters to see the item get deleted. If they continue to verify something that is factually wrong and you have the documentation to prove its error; you can sue for damage!

Complete and Mail Your Dispute Letter

Now you have all the fundamentals in the dispute process. It is time to gather your disputes and get them in the mail.

First, sit down with your credit report to review your negative items. You can then log those items in the Dispute Log I have included in your Kit.



Next you will want to choose the best dispute letter from your Credit Repair Kit dispute templates. Pick a reason that fits or closely fits the reason you want to dispute.

Complete the dispute letter with your account and personal details. Make sure you include your name, address, and your social security number on the dispute letter. Also make sure you sign the letter (to credit bureaus and original creditors ONLY).

Ensure you complete the creditors' names and account numbers you're disputing, matching the correct account number listed on your report with the bureau to which you are submitting the dispute. Remember, account numbers might vary between different credit bureaus.

Include your IDs with your letter. They will want to see your Driver's License and Social Security Card. If you don't have those, supply another state or Federal picture ID and additional verification of your social security number.

Mail your disputes to each credit bureau. The credit bureau addresses are listed in the Credit Bureau Address section of this guide. The first address listed is the primary address for each credit bureau.



There are also many more addresses listed for each bureau. You can later use some advanced dispute tactics with those addresses. This includes the advanced tactic to confuse e-OSCAR which is referenced in the e-Credit Repair Effectiveness section of this guide.

Log the date you mail out your disputes. You can track this with the Dispute Log included in your kit.

Waiting for and Checking Your Results

Expect to see some results within 30-45 days. Sometimes it will take 40-45 days and sometimes you will receive results faster; but as a general rule of thumb, expect to see them after 40 days. Early arrival will then be a pleasant surprise!

The Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act gives the creditor 30 days to respond to the dispute. This means they have 30 days from the date the dispute is entered by the credit bureaus into e-OSCAR. Now you know why the bureaus are in such a hurry!

850

You should allow time for the disputes to get mailed to the credit bureau, and allow for some time for the bureaus to initiate the dispute process.

This is why 40-45 days is a reasonable time-frame to wait for your results.

FACTA requires the credit bureaus to respond to you by mail with your results ONLY if you request they do so in writing.



Ensure that you leave a sentence on the credit bureau dispute letter requesting that they reply to your dispute by mail. They then are required by law to mail you back your reports.

The credit bureaus will then send you copies of your credit reports by mail. These reports may come in larger than normal envelopes with only P.O. Boxes in the return address section, so be on the lookout for them.

Typically, your results will appear on the first page of most reports you receive.

Trans Union

Trans Union reports are very easy to read. Their results are on the first page and appear as a list. The list shows you the account name, account number, and the result of the dispute.

What you hope to see is “DELETED.” Sometimes you will see VERIFIED, or NO CHANGE; and other times you will see NEW INFORMATION BELOW.

When the report shows that new information is on the report, it is usually a minor correction to the reported data. The negative item probably still remains, but has been modified.



Sometimes this change is the date of last activity, or the balance owed, or whatever other factor for which you submitted the dispute.

Trans Union will then give you the account details so you can see what information has been updated and changed. And they will give you access to your online credit report with them.

This “backdoor” into Trans Union is very valuable. This is where you can actually see exactly what Trans Union is reporting for you. Occasionally, the credit monitoring service reports don’t get this data 100% right, but with Trans Union themselves it will be. Check your reports, and enter results per the instructions in the next Track Results section of this guide.

Experian

With Experian reports your results can be on page 1 or 2. They also provide you a summary list of your results.

This list shows the account name, account number, and status. The status is either Deleted; Remains; Updated; or Reviewed.



You are shooting for a **Deleted** result. **Remains** is the worst result as this indicates the item will stay on the report with no change at all.

If the account is **Updated**, a change was made to the item but it remains on your report.

If you disputed that the item does not belong to you, this status will indicate that they verified it does belong to you. If you disputed the account for another reason, review the report for what was changed.

Reviewed simply means you need to check the report yourself for results. It can indicate either a deletion or an update. You won't see too many of these types of results.

Experian will provide you other account details in the report they send, including the creditor name, address, and phone number.

You will also see the account number, and date originally filed. Many other account details, and notes on the account are all available on this report.

Equifax

Equifax reports don't really have a good summary section. You will have to review the account details on your report to see what has changed.



They do typically show you the updated and deleted accounts on the first 2 pages of the report. These can be found under "The Results of Our Investigation", and "Collection Agency".

These sections will tell you the results of the disputes. They will list the creditor's name and account number. They will then tell you in one sentence what the results were.

The statuses are much the same as for the other credit bureaus. In most cases you are striving for a DELETE. They will also UPDATE or VERIFY the account.

If updated, Equifax will tell you in the summary description what exactly was updated. Go through your report item-by-item during your review, and highlight all the negative accounts which still remain.

The credit bureau reports give you a lot of additional details you won't find on a credit monitoring report. Review these details thoroughly, as each one is a potential reason for another dispute.



The “Last Reported” with Experian; “Date Paid” with Trans Union; and “Date of 1st Delinquency” with Equifax; are VERY important indicators.

All of these indicators reflect the date the account was last used, or the last time you made a payment. This date is one of the most important dates on your credit report as it determines how long the account will stay on your credit report. Most derogatory accounts remain on your credit report for 7 years.

The 7 years starts with the date you first became past due on the account and never made it current again. So make a note of this date as again, it reflects how long the negative account is due to remain on your report.

Bankruptcies, unpaid judgments and tax liens can remain on your report for 10 years or more.

This date is also a good reason you want to think twice about paying older accounts and collections unless the creditor agrees to delete the negative item from your report.

If they agree to remove the item, this is called “Pay-to-Delete.” We’ll talk more about this later in this guide.



In most cases the creditor or collection company will NOT agree to delete the item from your report. Instead they will tell you that they will UPDATE or CORRECT your credit report.

This only means if you pay the debt, they will update the reporting to show you now have a \$0 balance or that the account was settled.

These changes to your report will do very little to help your credit scores increase; the mere appearance of the collection is negative and even though a paid collection is better than an unpaid one, the damage from the actual collection account is still there.

Your credit score is literally a mathematical model which reflects your risk of going 90 days or more late on an account within the next 2 years. Since an account has been sent to collections, you’re viewed as a much higher risk to go 90 days late in the future. But if you pay off that account after it is in collections, you will still be viewed as a high risk consumer.



To try to elaborate, your risk is that you let the account go bad to begin with. Your risk doesn't decrease if you pay it off after it goes into collections. Truly, you are still at the same risk of defaulting in the future, even if you did pay it off after the fact.

This is exactly why Fair Isaac gives you very little incentive for paying off a collection. This is also why, if you *must* pay off a collection, I advise settling it versus paying it in full. A settled collection is no worse than a collection paid in full. It's still a collection.

Do it Again

After you have reviewed your results, log the results in your Dispute Log. Make sure you thoroughly review your reports so you'll know what negative items still remain on your reports.

You will probably see a lot of negatives removed with your early disputes. This is because you are narrowing down the creditors who actually have enough information on you to even report the item.

Many creditors keep bad records, or delete your records when the account is sold to collections. This means 1 simple dispute for any reason at all will remove many of these accounts.

You will also have a lot of creditors who verified or updated the account information. These are the creditors to whom you will need to continue disputing to get the items removed.



Once you have your log completed with the negative creditors who still remain, complete the steps mentioned above for mailing out another round of credit bureau disputes.

REMEMBER, dispute for another reason using another letter template; attach supporting documentation or ask the bureaus for their method of investigation. Do NOT dispute for the same reason without proof or your dispute or it will be listed as frivolous.

Each month you will want to continue disputing to the credit bureaus. After 1-2 rounds of these credit bureau disputes, you will be able to narrow down your real "problem creditors."

Usually, these are the creditors who are reporting your most recent data. The more recent a negative item is the greater the chance the creditor has all your information readily available to verify your account.

While those accounts will require more dispute work from you to have them removed, you will still have success in getting many of those accounts deleted.

After your first or second round of disputes you will also want to start some of the Advanced Dispute tactics discussed later on in this guide.

By disputing with both the credit bureau and original creditors simultaneously, you will see more success in deleting your recent and more harmful accounts.

Still, start with credit bureau disputes to narrow down the creditors who are really going to cause you problems. On average, these bureau disputes should ultimately help you delete 40-60% of your total negatives.

Remember, every time you receive results from the credit bureaus, do your review, log your results, and then initiate another round of credit bureau disputes. If you don't receive your reports back from the credit bureaus, review your updated report with your credit monitoring service. You do not have to wait for all of your reports to come back to initiate another dispute with another bureau. So, if Experian responds first, you don't have to wait for Equifax or Transunion to come back or send out your next round if you don't want to.



Keep in mind one of the new credit bureau stall tactics is to not even send back the reports to you. After 40 days have passed with no results received in the mail, login to your credit monitoring account to see the changes.

You will typically find that the credit bureaus did do the investigation and updated your results; they just didn't mail the results back. If this happens, use your updated credit report through the monitoring service to track your results.

You will then log your results on your Dispute Log, and send out another round of disputes for the negative accounts that still remain on your reports.

Credit Bureau Stall tactics

Credit bureaus will often do things or send you things to slow your credit improvement process down; credit professionals call this "Stall Tactics".

There are many methods they will use to stall the dispute process; we're going to look at a few of the most common ones.

No IDs, This Might be Fraud

One of the first tactics you will see is their letter requesting your IDs. Not having your ID is a valid reason for not doing the dispute, so always ensure your IDs are submitted with your disputes.

Even if you do send your IDs with your disputes, you may receive a letter from the credit bureaus anyway stating your dispute is fraudulent and for you to send your IDs back to them.

Don't get frustrated when this happens. Instead, EXPECT this to happen. This is part of the game the bureaus will play. I have included a standard response letter in your Dispute Template Library for when this happens. This letter basically says that you already sent your IDs, and now they have fewer days to complete the dispute.



Remember, they have 30 days to get a response from the creditors after initializing your dispute according to the law. See how much time they have left by checking your log to find the date you mailed your disputes. Subtract the amount of days that have passed from the 30 days, and enter that number of days in your letter before you send it.

If they sent you this letter 7 days after you mailed the dispute, subtract that from 30 days, and you get 23 days left.



Use the template letter to mail back to them stating they now have 23 days to respond to the dispute by law as your IDs were already submitted with your dispute.

Your response letter will tell them that you know they already had your IDs, and neither you nor the law will accept this excuse as valid for them not getting you results in 30 days.

You should then see results in the normal time frame you were expecting.

This is Frivolous

If you are following my methods you should rarely see this letter, but you will see it if you attempt to dispute the same account for the same reason.

It is not uncommon to also see this letter even if the dispute is not frivolous as part of a credit bureau stall tactic. Experian has been sued quite a bit for this.

If a bureau sends a response to you saying your dispute is frivolous; send back the response letter I provided stating that the dispute is not frivolous, and that they now have X amount of days to complete the investigation as required by law. If they respond again stating your dispute is frivolous, send out another dispute letter for another reason for your dispute.



If they again respond and state it is frivolous, you will need to write yet another letter to them stating you have never disputed the account for that reason; restate your reason; and then send out that letter. At this point you can also file a complaint with the Fair Trade Commission for lack of compliance with the FCRA.

That should clarify the frivolous response and will get a new dispute started for you.

Identity theft

Identity Theft cases are handled differently than any other dispute. FACTA has a certain section dedicated to how these disputes MUST be handled by the credit bureaus.

The credit bureaus have very strict restrictions on how they handle identity theft cases, so if you take the steps listed below; by law they must delete the negative item from your report.



There is no grey area in FACTA. If you prove the identity theft, the credit bureaus MUST delete the item from your credit reports.

This is an extremely effective way to have these items permanently removed from your credit report, guaranteed. But you must first file some official reports and complaints with state and Federal agencies to establish that you are truly dealing with an identity theft case.

First you must know that whoever is responsible for the theft will be pursued and prosecuted if you take the official steps to correct your credit.

You can dispute ID theft cases like the other disputes I outline in this guide; keeping the person who stole your ID from legal trouble. However, it will probably take you longer to correct your credit.

Most of my ID theft clients had their ID stolen from someone they knew well. In many cases, it was a family member who actually stole their ID and used it to apply for new credit.

Many clients do NOT want to get that person or relative in trouble. If you don't want to get the person who stole your ID into trouble, do NOT follow the steps I outline here in this section.

Instead dispute directly with the credit bureaus along with advanced tactics I outline later in this guide.

Let's review the process for those who have had ID theft.



Police Report

The first step you will need to take is to file a police report. You can call your local police station or sheriff's office. Tell them you have had your ID stolen and that you want to file a police report.

They will take information from you to complete the police report. This is where they will ask you if you know who did it, and will request information from you to pursue that person for identity theft charges.

At the end of the call they usually tell you where and when you can pick up your report when the officer has it completed. Make sure you get a copy of the police report as it will be required to file the official Identity Theft report with the credit bureaus.

Identify Theft Federal Trade Commission Complaint

The second main component of an official Identity Theft Dispute is a Fraud Complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

After you file your police report, go online to file your official ID Theft complaint with the FTC. To get started visit <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>. (I've had clients file this complaint first and the police report 2nd; that is fine).

This “complaint assist” system with the Federal Trade Commission will then walk you through the complaint process.

There will be 8 steps in total. On the following pages I have included screenshots of some of the questions that will be asked.

These are the questions asked in Steps 1 and 2 to get the dispute started. The rest of the questions are then specific to the Identity Theft instances that occurred.

And at the end of complaint they ask for all of your personal information, and allow you to print the entire form.

Here are some screenshots of Steps 1 and 2 of the form. The FTC did make some minor changes, so these screenshots might be a little different from what you actually see, but they should be fairly consistent with what you will see in the dispute process.

Take a look so you can see the steps in the process.

Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Complaint Assist System

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

Welcome to the FTC Complaint Assistant. So that we can properly record your complaint, you will first be asked to answer a series of questions. After answering these questions, you will have the opportunity to provide us additional details regarding your complaint in your own words.

Is your complaint or concern regarding identity theft?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

For each of these that apply, please select the type of account (Newly Opened, Existing, Both or Not Applicable):

- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Checking or Savings Accounts
- ☐ Government Documents (Driver's License, Tax Return, etc.)
- ☐ Internet Accounts or your Email
- ☐ Telephone or Wireless Accounts
- ☐ Securities Accounts (401k, Stocks/Bonds, etc.)
- ☐ Utility Accounts (Electric, Gas, Cable, etc.)
- ☐ Loans
- ☐ Other

Please click the next button once you are done or if none of the choices apply.

 Back

Next 

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

Did you experience any of the following? Please select all of these that apply:

- ☐ Someone used one or more of my credit cards to make charges
- ☐ Someone opened a credit card using my name or information without my permission.
- ☐ Someone used one of my credit card checks illegally.

Please click the next button once you are done or if none of the choices apply.

 Back

Next 

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

Have you contacted any of the Credit Reporting Agencies?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

 Back

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

Have you contacted the police department or local law enforcement?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

 Back

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

Did you receive any money, goods, services, or other benefit as a result of the events described in this complaint?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

 Back

FTC Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 1: Let's Get Started

Are you willing to press charges and/or work with law enforcement if charges are brought against the person(s) who committed the fraud?

☐ Yes

☐ No

[Back](#)

FTC

Complaint Assistant

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

Step 6

Step 7

Step 8

Tell Us About The Identity Theft

Please provide the details of your first incident of identity theft, including information about the company where an account was opened or used. If you are reporting multiple incidents of theft, finish detailing the theft incident, then click Add New Theft Type.

What kind of account was used or opened:

Credit Card - Existing

When was the account used or opened?

How much did the suspect obtain: \$

.00

Account#:

Routing#:

Affected Check #s:

Company Name:

Company Address:

Apt/Suite/PO Box:

City:

State:

Select

Zip:

Country:

USA

Contact:

Company Phone Number:

Extension:

Company Email Address:

Company Website:

+ Add New Theft Type

Back

help

Next

OMB #3084-0047

Federal Trade Commission | Privacy Policy |

Last Modified: Sunday, 10-Nov-2007 09:30:00 EDT

The latter steps in this process are dedicated to specifics. They will ask for all the details for each creditor with which you had the issue. They will then ask even more details about you personally.

Complete this process, and then print the form. The system will give you this option when you are done.

You will then need to use this form along with your police report to file your official Identity Theft Complaint with the Credit Bureaus.

Copyright 2013 All Rights Reserved, Netiva Heard – MNH Financial Services, Inc.

Page 44

Filing the Complaint with the Credit Bureaus

Now you should have your police report and complaint form from the Federal Trade Commission.

You will want to include those with your ID Theft dispute letter supplied in your Dispute Template Library.

Ensure you complete the dispute form with the creditor's name and account numbers. Include your police report and FTC complaint form.



You can then mail off your dispute, and await the response.

To learn more about Identity Theft and how the Federal Trade Commission handles these cases visit <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idth04.shtm>.

Fraud Alerts

A Fraud Alert will be placed on your report when you have an identity theft case, or when you request that one be added to your report (you can request credit freeze as well).

You have probably seen ID Theft protection companies on TV. What these companies do is solicit the credit bureaus to have a "fraud alert" placed on your credit report.

This fraud alert makes it difficult for people to access your credit report and use it to apply for new credit.

The alert is placed on the report, and the creditors to whom you apply will see this alert. They will then require additional identifying documentation from you to process your application.



So if you put a fraud alert on your report and then go to apply for a car loan; the car dealer would require additional ID from you to verify your identity.

Fraud alerts give you an extra layer of protection against ID theft as the creditor has to follow strict guidelines in verifying your identity.

But keep in mind; each time you need to apply for new credit, you will be put through an extra series of steps to verify your ID. This will slow down your approval process for sure, and in some cases this can become a bit of an annoyance.

Don't put a fraud alert on your report unless you know for sure someone is trying to steal your identity and use it in applying for new credit.

Keep in mind it is very easy to put fraud alerts on your credit; you do not need to pay someone to do this for you. Most Identity Theft companies will also charge you to monitor your report for suspicious activity, in addition to placing a fraud alert on your credit

Report. You can monitor your report on your own as well. I'd be more apt to hire an identity theft protection company versus a credit monitoring company. They will literally monitor and do nothing to prevent. What's the point in that? I use [Lifelock](#) but there are other good companies out there as well.



You should still monitor your report 1-2 times per year on your own to ensure no additional fraudulent activity is happening.

You know what is on your credit reports better than anyone else. Your eyes need to see your reports to ensure your ID is safe and your credit is intact.

Placing a Fraud Alert on your Report

Filing a fraud alert on your credit is fast and easy to do. You can either call the credit bureaus or file for your alert online. Below are the phone numbers and web addresses you will need to file your complaint.

The fraud alert will instantly be placed on your report whether you are requesting the alert through the phone or on the bureaus' websites.

A statement will be added to your credit reports indicating that you may be a victim of fraud and that creditors should take additional steps to protect your identity before extending credit.

Here is the contact information you will need to file a fraud alert with the credit bureaus.



Equifax Fraud Department

(888) 766-0008

Web: [https://www.alerts.equifax.com/AutoFraud Online/jsp/fraudAlert.jsp](https://www.alerts.equifax.com/AutoFraudOnline/jsp/fraudAlert.jsp)



xperian Fraud Department

(888) EXPERIAN (888-397-3742)

Web: www.experian.com/fraud



Trans Union Fraud Department

(800) 680-7289

Web:

www.transunion.com/corporate/personal/fraudIdentityTheft/fraudPrevention/fraudAlert.page

When you request your alert online, the web page will ask for some basic information about who you are. The form is pretty simple and easy to complete.

Here is the web form for Equifax so you can see the questions they ask.

Choose Alert Type

You may only select one alert type at a time

☐ Initial 90 Day Fraud Alert

Anyone that suspects they are a victim of identity theft

☐ Active Duty Alert

Active duty military personnel only

Personal Information

* Required Field

First Name *

Last Name *

Initial

Suffix

Social Security Number *

 - -

Date of Birth *

 / /

Current Address *

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Previous Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address *

Confirm Email Address *

☒ In the event that a creditor needs to contact me, please use the name and current address information listed above and any telephone numbers I provide below. Any alert contact information previously provided is not retained with a new alert request.

First Name

Last Name

Contact Address

City

State

Zip Code

Contact Telephone Numbers

 - - - - - -

Code Verification. Type the numbers you see in the code.

Vision Impaired



Try another code

If you cannot read code

6034725

When you call in to request your alert, you will be asked similar questions. Once you complete the questions a Red Flag will show on your report for this new Fraud Alert.

Any future creditor to whom you apply with will see this alert and request additional identification to issue credit.

Fraud alerts are a good way to prevent identity theft. They add another layer of protection to ensure your credit profile is protected. These alerts are fast and easy to have placed on your credit reports.

The Fraud Fix

This Fraud Fix method could be in the Advanced Tactic section of this guide. After all, this is a very advanced tactic to remove a negative item immediately from your report.

FACTA has a lot of language about Fraud and Identity Theft. It also imposes strict regulations on how the credit bureaus must deal with these cases.

You can call the credit bureaus also to have Fraud and Identity Theft items deleted from your report. The credit bureaus are very careful with how they handle these disputes.

They typically delete the item immediately, and then conduct an investigation. Their investigation will determine if your complaint is valid or not.

This is a great tactic because they usually delete first, and then investigate later. But if you do this you HAVE to make sure that the account you are calling on REALLY is under a Fraud or Identity Theft threat.

If you report an item as fraudulent, and it isn't fraud at all, you could be in some BIG trouble. In effect, if you do this you will be committing fraud yourself.



From there you could face civil and criminal battles. If you don't legitimately have a fraud case, do NOT use this method.

If you do have a legitimate fraud case you want to clear up right away, call the bureaus immediately. Tell them you need to report Fraud on your report, and provide the account name and number.

you will also need to tell them what the fraud is. They should then delete the item and initiate an investigation. If their investigation concludes there was fraud, the item will then stay deleted from your report.

You can reach the credit bureaus by phone on their numbers below.

Equifax Fraud Department	(888) 766-0008
Experian Fraud Department	(888) EXPERIAN (888-397-3742)
Trans Union Fraud Department	(800) 680-7289

Pay to delete

Earlier in this guide you learned how paying off a collection may actually hurt your credit scores because payments update the reporting date and the date-of-last-activity on your report.

This date change will initially make the bureaus read the pay-off as recent negative activity which adversely affects your credit scores.

This is why we focus on the REMOVAL of most negative items from your report.

In other cases, mostly with charge offs and accounts with late payments, a \$0 balance may help more because of the positive payment history on the account. (If the account was never positive and has late payments throughout the entire account history; deletion is the goal).



Remember, the credit bureaus don't have a memory. This means your report is a snapshot of what your credit is at a certain point in time.

If you get a negative item deleted from your report, future creditors will NEVER know it was ever there to begin with. And your credit scores will react to the deletion the same way. They increase as if the negative account was never there.

Again, in most cases, to fix credit, you MUST have the item deleted.

This is why I advise clients to never pay off their negative items without trying to first submit a dispute and get an investigation for a deletion or positive update in their favor.



Through the dispute process you will remove most of your negative accounts from your reports. But there may be items you can't get removed through deletion and you might want to negotiate to have these remaining items removed.

Your leverage is the balance you still owe on the debt, and the fact that the creditor or collection company wants to still get paid.

This is the leverage you will need to use to negotiate getting the item DELETED from your credit report.

You DON'T want to have the creditor tell you they will UPDATE your account or report it as a \$0 balance.

You must make it crystal CLEAR that you want the item DELETED from your report, and that is the only way you will pay off that debt.

This process is called ***Pay-to-Delete*** for obvious reasons. You are PAYING the balance due to have the item DELETED from your report.

Understanding the Collection Process

Most of your debts will be negotiated by a Collection Company. In many of these cases, the Collection Companies purchased the debt from Wall Street.

Sometimes a creditor will hire a Collection Company to pursue you to collect the debt. However, after a year or two many creditors will simply “write-off” the debt on their side.

Then they turn around and sell the debt in a bad debt pool on Wall Street for literally pennies on the dollar. Collection Companies purchase debt in “bundles”. A bundle is really an Excel file, with a bunch of consumer data.

The bundle might contain 10,000 consumers who have defaulted with that creditor. The list might have the name of the consumer, address, phone number, and account details.



In many cases, this is ALL the evidence these Collection Companies have to try to collect on that debt. This is why disputing removes so many collections, especially with advanced tactics. (A recent change in law occurred in 2014 that mandates banks to provide more documentation to make it easier for collection agencies to validate debts; to date I have not seen a significant change in collection agencies being able to fully prove the validity of a debt).

In reality, very few Collection Companies have what they are required by law to have in order to collect on the debt in the first place. Once challenged, they concede and delete the item knowing they don't have the necessary documentation.

Now you understand who you are talking to when you speak with Collection Companies. Your original creditor is long gone and these collection people will almost always accept at worst 50% of the debt. They can easily do this since they bought the debt for as little as 5-30 cents on the dollar.



So if your credit card balance was \$1,000, the collection company purchased the rights to that debt for \$50 to \$300. Yes, they will gladly accept a payoff of \$500.

The only case where they won't is when they successfully file a judgment, which is rare. When a judge has determined that you have to pay them, it's pretty tough to negotiate your way out of the debt.

Again, this is rare, and in most cases collection companies will gladly negotiate with you.

When to Use Pay-to-Delete

There are a few times you want to consider paying off a debt to have it deleted from your report.

The first instance is where you have tried all other dispute methods unsuccessfully.

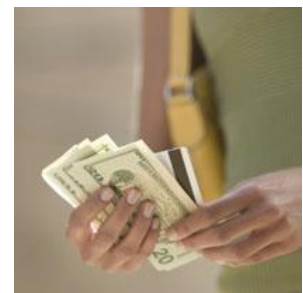
This could happen if you have disputed to the credit bureaus many times, and also have used many advanced tactics that have not worked to get the item deleted.

If you have used the methods in this guide you should only have a very small percentage of creditors who need "Pay to Delete" to get rid of the item.

In those few cases the debts are probably pretty recent, and the creditor or collection company might have all the records and documentation they need to report the debt.

So they will keep fighting back because they think they have enough evidence to validate the debt.

Another case where you might want to use "Pay-to-Delete" is when the debt keeps being reported by new collection companies. You should know that these debt pools are not just sold to one Collection Company; they can be resold many times over.



This buying of your debt is not the main issue. The real problem pops up when multiple companies start reporting the debts against you one after the other.

So let's say you had a bad Capital One debt. You disputed it, and were successful and the item was deleted. Two months later your credit score goes down; and you see that a new collection company is now reporting that debt.



So, you turn around and successfully dispute and delete that account. Another month passes, and again another company is reporting that debt.

In this kind of case, you might want to consider "Pay-to-Delete," especially if you need your credit scores to be at or above a certain number to qualify for financing.

Once the debt keeps getting sold and then reported by different companies, your scores will continue to drop each time the new collection appears.

This is a tough situation and you have two options to get out of it.

First, you could just negotiate and get that debt paid off so no more companies buy and re-report the debt.

Second, you can simply continue disputing and deleting the collections as they appear.

The choice is yours in that instance, but a Pay-to-Delete would permanently remedy your problem.

Those are the most common cases where you might want to consider a "Pay-to-Delete." With most other accounts you can save a fortune by disputing and deleting without paying off the debt.

How to Get an Item Deleted By Pay-to-Delete

To get an item deleted you first need to determine how much you want to pay on the debt. The common end place is to settle for 50% of the original debt. However, that doesn't mean you can't try to negotiate for less.



First figure out what you are willing to pay on the debt; then call the Collection Company. You will usually have someone assigned to your account, so write down the name of that person.

Let them know that you are serious about paying off that debt, but don't have the money to pay the entire balance. Still, you tell them you want to *"do the right thing and put it behind you."*

This is the language they will try to use on you, so hitting them with it first often makes them step back a bit. Ask them what they can accept for payoff and listen to what they offer. From here a negotiation begins between what they are offering you and what you want to pay. If you are willing to settle for 50%, the negotiation will in most cases be very short, as they usually accept those terms with no issue.

Once you get numbers worked out and have agreed to a price, you will want to let your representative know that you need to ensure the item is **DELETED** from your credit report. Let them know you need something in writing stating the item will be deleted from your report. Never take their "word for it" if you can avoid it; always, always, always, try to get it in writing!!

Now they might begin to play on words. They might tell you they will update, or change the account. The only word you want to hear is "DELETE". Don't accept anything other than them agreeing to DELETE the item.

Ensure that they confirm they will DELETE the item from your report, and that they will give it to you in writing.

If they won't give it to you in writing, record the phone call. One way or another, get confirmation from them, and try and try again to get it in writing.

If They Say Yes

You're all set! Get your letter from the creditor or collection agency agreeing they will delete the item from your report, and pay them what you agreed on.

Wait for the results from the credit bureau, and keep an eye on your credit monitoring account to ensure that this item does get deleted. It typically takes no more than 35-40 days.

If They Say No

In most cases, creditors and Collection Companies will not just roll over and give you this letter. They will typically put up some type of resistance.



You already know the first tactic they will use is telling you they will UPDATE your report. And you also know to insist on a deletion, not an update.

They will also tell you that they CAN'T delete the item from your report. They will tell you it is against the law; they don't have the authority, or any number of other excuses.

The truth is they have every right to request the item deleted. Further, the process for them to request this is VERY simple.

They only complete a simple form known as a Universal Data Form. It's basically the same form the credit bureaus use to process your credit disputes to your creditors.

The process takes less than 5 minutes for them to complete the form and send it back to the bureaus. And it is 100% legal, and they have every right to do this.

Even though they will sometimes insist they can't delete the item, no matter what they say KNOW that they absolutely have the power and the authority to delete that item.

Here's a copy of the Universal Data Form so you can see what your creditor has to complete.

UNIVERSAL DATA FORM

This form has been approved for reporting or updating account information.

☐ New
☒ Delete

☐ Change **DO NOT DELETE PAID IN FULL ACCOUNTS.**

(Do not include security passwords with codes below.)

Subscriber Name:

[Redacted]

Equifax Subscriber Code: _____

CCA Subscriber Code: _____

TRW Subscriber Code: _____

TU Subscriber Code: _____

Subscriber Address:

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Surname [Redacted]	First [Redacted]	M.I.	Suffix	SSN [Redacted]	DOB/Age
Current Address [Redacted]		City [Redacted]		State [Redacted]	Zip [Redacted]
Previous Address		City	State	Zip	Telephone, if Available

ADDITIONAL SPOUSE INFORMATION (Complete only if joint access)

Surname	First	M.I.	Suffix	SSN	DOB/Age
Spouse Address (if different)		City	State	Zip	

Account Number	Date Placed For Collection	Original Amount	Balance Date	Balance	DLA Date
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	\$ [Redacted]	
Client Name/Original Creditor	Note: Be sure to include agency subscriber code, signature and current date. Reasons for deleting accounts must be provided. Client name is required.			Place On Locate (Y/N)	ECOA
[Redacted]					

Remember, if the Collection Company tells you they CAN'T delete the item, request clarification. Before you move forward with the conversation, ask them to acknowledge that this is something they **CAN** do.

This will rattle them, but be insistent that they acknowledge that they CAN do this. You might even want to say to them, *"All you need to do is complete and return the Universal Data Form."*

That statement shows them that you know what you are talking about. Then be very nice, and tell your representative that you KNOW it can be done, and you simply will not accept "No" for an answer.

Let the person to whom you're talking know that you also understand that they might not have the authority to authorize what you're asking for.

Repeat your offer to pay off the debt as agreed, reminding them all you need confirmation the item will be deleted.

Then politely tell your representative that if they don't have the authority to authorize this, you would like to speak with a supervisor who does have that authority.

deleted

Talk this out with your representative, or get a supervisor on the phone. In most cases you will be dealing with Collection Companies, not the original creditor.

You can let them know that you are serious about paying off the debt. If they are serious about taking your money then they will agree to take 5 minutes to complete the universal data form and everyone wins.

Remind them that you already have the original creditor on your credit, and there is no reason for their account to also be reported.

You want to do the right thing and pay off the debt; they should do the right thing and delete their duplicate report.

Also, remind them that if they won't do this, they are not serious about taking your money. You will just wait to speak with another collection company chasing after that debt that will take your money and delete the item.

They might tell you that the item would remain on the report. If you do as they ask, the item would remain on your report if you pay them anyway. In the end, demand confirmation that they will delete the item in return for payment.



If they won't accept this, think twice (or 3 times) about paying it off.

Unless you are applying for financing, paying off the debt at this point will gain you nothing; and you will lose the only leverage you have. Try to work this out with the Collection Company. If they won't work with you, keep disputing. (NOTE: It is easier to dispute a paid collection, so if you must pay it and they won't delete, you can always go back and dispute it for removal.)

What typically happens is another Collection Company will report and you might have better luck dealing with them. When the first company no longer holds the debt, POUND the credit

bureaus with disputes. They won't waste tons of time fighting back when they don't hold the debt, and have nothing to gain by fighting with you. Will you have the newer collection reporting, yes. But using this tactic, at least you won't have TWO collections reporting on the same debt (keep in mind the 1st collection agency should show a \$0 balance when a new collection agency purchases the debt).

Success

In most cases you will get the item deleted if you follow these steps. You might need to speak to a few people, but you should be able to get it done.

Don't pay that debt off without getting them to agree to delete. And don't accept their excuses if they tell you they can't do it. Stand your ground so they know you are serious and you know what they can and can't do.

In most cases, they will agree to delete the item in return for payment, if you are insistent.

Legal liability versus credit

Credit repair will NOT remove your legal liability for your debts. Even if you do delete your negative credit items from your credit report, you will still legally owe that debt.



If you pay off the debt or collection, the damage will still remain to the credit report. DEBT OWED and CREDIT REPORTED are two completely separate elements.

If you owe a creditor money, even if you get the account deleted from your credit report, you still owe that creditor money. They can still legally pursue you for that debt if they choose to do so.

If you have a judgment, or garnishment of wages; having the item deleted will not make that debt go away. You will still owe the debt, even if the item is not on the credit report.

The purpose of repairing your credit is so that future creditors who review your reports will not see the prior damage.

This will help you get approved for the financing you need, and at a very good interest rate. You will also be able to re-negotiate with your current debtors when your credit profile is repaired, lowering both the interest rates and payments.

There are endless benefits to having a great credit profile. Just keep in mind when you see those reports coming back with all those deletions, you still owe those debts.

One of the true rewards of credit repair is that nobody else knows that you owe those debts.

Statute of Limitations (SoL)

Almost all the creditors on your credit report have a statute of limitations for how long they can attempt to collect on a debt.

The Statute of Limitations is the legal time frame that the debt can be pursued through the court system.

There are some accounts that have no statute of limitations. Here's a list of most of those types of debt:

- Federal Student Loans
- Most Types of Fines
- Past Due Child Support
- Most Taxes and Tax Liens

The statute of limitations is typically based on the state you live in now, or the state where the debt originally occurred, or the state you were in when you originally applied for the debt.



Every state is different, so you might want to research the statute of limitations in your state on your account types. You can research your State's civil debt collection codes.

According to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, most UNSECURED debt expires in 3-6 years. Contracts such as car loans (installment loans) expire after 6 years on average.

Judgments can last up to 20 years, and can be renewed indefinitely. Those dates are typically based on the date of default (when you stopped making payments), but some contracts might extend to the original contract date. This also varies based by state.

These statutes are important to you for a few reasons.



First, there are some disputes based on the debtor not being able to collect on the debt due to the statute of limitations expiring. This is also a great Advanced Dispute tactic, I have a letter for this in your Dispute Template Library.

Second, this is why you want to check your statute of limitations prior to making any payment to a creditor or collection agency. The time they can collect would then extend from the time you made your last payment to them.

This is why some Collection Companies make it so easy for you to continue to make payments.

Even the Federal Trade Commission warns, ***“WARNING! While the statute of limitations (SoL) is running or even after it's expired, making ANY payment or signing a promissory note can reset or restart (depends on your state law) the statute of limitations.”***

Finally, you don't want to push your disputes too far with creditors who can still pursue you in court.



If you start attacking an original creditor with a year old debt, your disputes might just prompt them to take your case to the courts. This is rare, but it does happen.

The older a credit item is, the more successful your disputes will be. This is partially because the creditor has less documentation, and in large part due to many older accounts being outside of the statute of limitations.

The creditor doesn't really gain anything by responding to all those disputes, as they know they can't legally collect on the debt anyway.

The opposite is also true. If a creditor knows that you owe them money and they have current documentation clearly supporting their case; they might pursue you in court.

If you start attacking them with credit disputes, you will increase the probability that some of them might come after you.

You shouldn't get really scared off by this; you simply need to know it can happen. And try to limit your attacks on ORIGINAL creditors with very recent data on your account where you KNOW you are in the wrong.

Advanced tactics and How to dispute to the creditors

There's much more to proficient credit repair than just sending letters to the credit bureaus.

The credit bureau dispute process is based on the Fair Credit Reporting Act's requirement that disputes be investigated.

Your disputes will be highly effective if you use the tactics in this guide. With credit bureau disputes you might even see 50% of your negative items removed.



But, what about the other 50%?

This is where Advance Credit Repair Tactics come into play. These tactics are designed to help you dispute and remove your most recent and harmful accounts.

And unlike credit bureau disputes, Advanced disputes work with hundreds of laws, not just the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

These disputes are designed to challenge the creditor for compliance with numerous Federal laws.



Leverage is the main point of Advance Credit Repair Tactics. Your creditor is using the credit report as leverage to get paid. They are even willing to manipulate the data in their favor with the intent of worsening your credit.

If you don't want to pay off the debt, you might think you don't have a lot of leverage with which to fight back.

Actually, you have a lot of leverage to use to get your items deleted from your reports.

There are over 200 consumer laws designed to protect your rights as a consumer, and your creditors commonly ignore these laws.

Some creditors blatantly break the law, counting on you not knowing your rights well enough to challenge them.

And the truth is you would have to be an attorney to know and understand *all* the rights you actually have.

So I have condensed many of these rights for you in a powerhouse of Advanced Dispute Letters. You can find them in your Dispute Template Library. I also have a link to the most popular laws that I use in the [Tools & Resources](#) section of my website.

These dispute letters will help you delete your most harmful accounts by challenging the creditor's compliance with some of these consumer laws.



How The Advanced Letters Work

The secret to advanced disputing is to challenge creditors on laws you believe they are probably violating.

Many of the advanced dispute tactics involve requesting information from your creditors directly. This is documentation they have to supply to you by law.

For example, the Fair Credit Billing Act requires the creditor to supply you with many things upon your request. The required documents include all your billing statements as well as detailed breakdowns of the debt allegedly owed, just to name a few.

In the dispute letter the creditor is given the option of supplying the documentation, as required by law, or deleting the item from your credit report.

Many of the letters also outline the repercussions the creditor will face if the item is not deleted.

These include official complaints being filed with the necessary State and Federal entities. You also have the right to civil penalties, not to mention opening the door to a possible class action lawsuit.

The creditor faces all these repercussions for breaking the law and not storing the required documentation. And all will be forgiven if they simply delete the item from your report!



This is just an example of how an advanced letter works. You find the creditor's violations, and then use those as leverage to get your negative items permanently removed from your credit report.

I stress permanently, because in this kind of disputing the creditor is voluntarily removing the negative item. This means you stand little chance of having that item re-reported again on your report because they voluntarily deleted it.

The underlying principal of Advanced Dispute Tactics is that the threat alone will get the item deleted from your credit report.

The threat to sue; the threat to file complaints with the Federal Trade Commission and Secretary of State; the threat to start a class action lawsuit against them; and even the threat to investigate them further is enough for most creditors to delete the item rather than deal with the headaches. Keep in mind these threats work best on accounts that are **FACTUALLY INCORRECT!**



I have had clients use them on items they didn't know were correct or incorrect, mainly because creditors prey on financially uneducated consumers. They know that out of 400 of those consumers, maybe 1 will actually ever challenge them on anything. In almost all cases, they would rather deal with the 399 consumers who have no idea what is going on, and leave that lonely educated person alone.

This is especially true when you catch them clearly violating the law, and you outline your intentions to hit them in all the places that hurt the most.

NO company wants problems with the FTC and Secretary of State. NO company just ignores the threat of a lawsuit, especially when they know they are in the wrong. NO company waives off the threat of a nationwide class-action lawsuit against them.



It just doesn't make sense for them to fight back; knowing that on the one hand they face this, and on the other hand if they simply delete a credit item they will probably never get paid for to begin with from 1 person's credit report.

This is why advanced disputing works so well. The secret is to know and understand the laws well enough to know what and how to challenge.

Lucky for you, I have done all this work for you. The letters are already prepared for you to send to your creditors.

Mailing Advanced Letters

Do not used advanced tactics until around your 3rd round of credit bureau disputes. You can continue your credit bureau disputes for different reasons, and work on some advanced methods simultaneously.

Reference your Dispute Template Library to choose the best dispute letter. Make sure you enter the account name and number on the dispute letter, and don't forget to sign it.

Then mail your letter to your creditor directly. All your creditors are listed on your credit report. You can obtain their addresses from the reports they return to you in the mail, or through your credit monitoring service report.

These letters go DIRECTLY to your CREDITORS. Do NOT mail them to the credit bureaus or they will do you no good. Remember, the credit bureaus only dispute a REASON.

These disputes challenge and threaten; and you need these to land in your creditors' hands directly. Make sure you mail your disputes to your creditors directly. Then keep an eye on your credit report for results.



Many of these advanced letters require the creditor to do certain things. But the law does NOT require that the creditor respond to your dispute. If they don't respond, they must stop collection activities – including reporting to the credit bureaus – until they do.

The only way you will see the result is to monitor your report. Your creditors will typically not respond to you by mail if they delete items based on your advanced letters.

This is why it is essential you monitor your credit reports for the results of your advanced disputes.

Summary

This guide could easily have been 1000 pages long. There is so much to know and understand about credit, and there is also a lot more to be learned and understood about effective credit repair.



What I have tried to do with the guide is to condense some of the most important information you will need to start repairing your credit today.

The best part is that these methods have been tested thousands of times, so you know the results will be there. You only need to execute the steps I have presented to you to see great credit improvement.

The most important thing you can do is to do SOMETHING. Don't sit on this knowledge; get your letters in the mail today. Remember, *that which goes unchallenged stays unchanged*.

If you find you don't have the time to repair your credit on your own but still understand the importance of having good credit, feel free to contact me for help.

I offer personalized [consultations](#) to point you in the right direction, credit empowerment programs that handle the entire process for you; to full-fledged credit [coaching services](#) to transform your total finances. I also have a Facebook Group to offer further support: bit.ly/CreditMakesSense

And as a special BONUS, you will receive a credit for 100% of what you paid for the Credit Repair Kit from my [Credit Services](#).

You deserve great credit. Take the steps to make that happen today!

~ Netiva "The Frugal CrediTnista"

Em: hello@MNHFinancialServices.com

Web: www.MNHFinancialServices.com

Free FB Community: www.CreditMakesSense.me

FB Business Page: www.facebook.com/TheFrugalCrediTnista

IG: www.instagram.com/TheFrugalCrediTnista/

YT: [The Frugal CrediTnista](#)