

Monica Shepard Law, PLLC - Consumer Report

6 SAVVY TIPS FOR REPAIRING YOUR CREDIT

1. **Get Organized.** It's important to have some type of filing system in place to keep track of your credit reports and correspondence. It's also advisable to have a designated calendar for monitoring response deadlines so that you can act promptly if the credit bureaus fail to respond.

2. **Order Your Credit Report.** Everyone is entitled to one FREE copy of their credit report from each credit bureau each year.

The official site for ordering a free credit report from all three major credit bureaus is www.annualcreditreport.com.

You can also request your free credit report by telephone by calling (877) 322-8228.

3. **Review For Inaccuracies.** The most common errors include:

- Entries Listed Due To Identity Theft
- Improper Entries For Items Discharged In Bankruptcy
- Inaccurate and Mis-Merged Accounts (Incorrectly listed late payments or balances)
- Obsolete Information (Creditors can only report debts for 7 years after they become delinquent or charged off and in some circumstances 10 years)

4. **Dispute.** Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"), credit bureaus have a duty to correct inaccurate information. You should send a dispute letter requesting correction of any inaccurate information.

Remember:

- Never send away your original documents; COPIES only
- Retain records and copies of EVERYTHING you send to the credit bureaus
- Include as much proof as possible to show evidence of the inaccuracies
- Send your letters/documents by certified mail, return receipt requested

5. **Stay Patient.** Credit repair is a process and will take time. The FCRA requires the credit bureaus to complete their investigation of an individual's dispute within 30 days of receipt of the dispute. The credit bureaus are also required to forward any disputes to the creditor within five days of receiving a dispute. An individual should expect to receive the results of the investigation approximately 45 days after sending in his or her dispute

6. **Seek Legal Help.** If the credit bureaus and/or creditors fail to make corrections and ignore evidence of inaccuracies, a lawsuit may be in order. If successful, a consumer may recover actual damages plus court costs and attorney fees. If you feel that you have been a victim of abusive credit reporting do not hesitate to contact [Monica Shepard Law, PLLC](#) for a free case review.