PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY



FRAUD ALERT
CREDIT LOCK &
CREDIT FREEZE
INFORMATION



FRAUD ALERT

If your wallet has been lost or stolen and you are concerned about being a victim of credit fraud, a fraud alert can be placed on your credit report.

- The fraud alert does not "lock down" your credit but will make any business opening an account follow additional steps to verify your identity because they will be notified that there may be fraud associated with your credit report.
- The fraud alert will last for one year but can be renewed. It's free.
- Notifying one credit bureau is all it takes, they will notify the other two.

CREDIT LOCK

Another option for securing your credit report, offered by all credit bureaus, is called a Credit Lock. It allows you to log in, lock and unlock your credit report, at will. There may be a fee affiliated with this service.

CREDIT FREEZE / SECURITY FREEZE

An additional layer of protection is a credit freeze. This will prevent anyone - including you - from getting new accounts in your name. When applying for new credit, plan ahead and unfreeze your credit before starting the application process.

- Typically, freezing and unfreezing credit is free.
- Each credit bureau (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) must be notified to establish a credit freeze.
- A PIN (Personal Identification Number) will be established with each bureau to allow the unfreezing of credit.
- When applying for new credit, notification to at least one bureau is required to unfreeze your credit. The new credit application will need to include the bureau where the freeze has been lifted.
- A credit freeze does not impact existing credit. Keep a close eye on established credit accounts for discrepancies.
- The credit freeze remains in place until it is requested, by you, to remove it.

PROTECTING LOVED ONES

When considering whether to apply a fraud alert or security freeze, it may be important to think about long-term planning for ourselves and our loved ones. If new credit applications in the future don't seem likely, placing a security freeze may be a good idea. This will prohibit anyone from opening new credit accounts or increasing limits.

Scammers target individuals with cognitive decline, seniors, and the most vulnerable - asking them to send money or share credit information. A credit freeze can protect you and your loved ones during difficult times.

If a loved one is being placed in assisted living or hospice care and will no longer be opening new lines of credit, a security freeze can prevent future problems.





CREDIT FREEZE FOR DECEASED

Unfortunately, a fairly common scam of thieves is to read obituaries and apply for credit in the names of the recently deceased. If a security freeze is in place, the deceased will already be protected. But if not, it is advisable to call and place a fraud alert immediately on the credit report.

Once a death certificate is obtained, it is important to notify one bureau in writing, requesting "Deceased - Do Not Issue Credit." The following will need to be provided:

- Copy of document(s) proving you are the executor or spouse; along with a copy of your ID (driver's license)
- Copy of the death certificate
- Full name, date of birth, Social Security number, most recent address of the deceased
- Date of death

The bureaus communicate with each other and will update the credit on the deceased.

CONTACT THE CREDIT BUREAUS

Equifax

P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com

Experian

Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com

TransUnion

TransUnion Credit Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-800-916-8800 www.transunion.com

Free Annual Credit Report

www.annualcreditreport.com

Report can be run on frozen credit and will not affect credit score.



www.TheRetirementPath.com

405-842-3443 OKC

972-377-2850 Frisco







