

The **ONE SOURCE** for all your credit reporting needs

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ILLINOIS LICENSE FEE SET TO TRIPLE

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE FINGER PRINT CRIMINAL BACK GROUND CHECKS

We now provide "LiveScan" finger print checks from both the Illinois State Police and the FBI. The "LiveScan Searches" can return results in as little as one hour, but usually they take two to three days. We will be doing them in our office, Peoria and in the Bloomington/Normal area. We will also be able to come to employer's offices.

If you would like to have your new employee applicants or your current employees finger prints checked through the Illinois State Police or the FBI, please call us. We will explain the requirements.

These are inkless prints that are scanned and submitted the the Ill. State Police and/or the FBI.

We also offer several other types of back ground checks:

Employment Credit Reports provide Previous Addresses, Judgments, Tax Liens, Collections, Payments History, Inquires and sometimes, previous employers. We recommend the Employment Credit Report be pulled first. The information provide by the Employment Credit Report will allow you to obtain a more complete and accurate Criminal Search. If the person doesn't pass the Employment Credit report, then you don't need to spend the extra money for the Criminal Back Ground Check.

Employment Verifications. We can verify employment information with previous employers.

Criminal searches:

- Name searches with the Illinois State Police.
- Name searches by County.
- Name searches by State.
- Name searches nation wide.
- Sex offender searches, either by state or nationally.

Criminal back ground checks should be run for: hiring and licensing decisions, such as:

School Employees	State Govrnt
Day/Child care	Volunteer Emp.
Sunday School Teachers	Elderly care
Park District Emp.	Criminal Justice
Non-lic. Health Care	Nurses
Healthcare Workers	Loan Originators
Massage Therapist	Locksmiths
School Bus Drivers	Security Guards
Lottery	Gaming

CHICAGO (AP) - It'll soon be getting more expensive to drive.

The state of Illinois is set to raise the price of getting a driver's license to \$30. The tripled fee goes into effect next week for both new and renewed licenses.

But drivers who want to avoid the higher fee still have time this week to get their licenses for the old price of \$10.

The driver's license fee isn't the only increase on the horizon for motorists. Starting Jan. 1, the cost for Illinois' annual license plate registration sticker will jump from \$79 to \$99. Information from: Chicago Sun-Times, <http://www.suntimes.com/index>

INCOME TAX VERIFICATION

Fannie and Freddie are requiring form 4506-T, Income Tax Filing Verification. We have two ways to comply with their requirements.

We can set you up to order the the 4506-T through this Merged and Mortgage system.

Or if you are set up to pull Flood Determination, you should also be set up to order 4506-T. You can order the Verification for one, two or three years.

If you wish to order the 4506-T, e-mail or fax us and request to have it activated. We also will need the names of those authorized to request the report.

STATE SEEKS CRACKDOWN ON DEBT SETTLEMENT FIRMS

Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias Says Firms Often Make Client's Financial Situations Worse

State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias wants legislation to crack down on debt settlement companies that prey on consumers who are drowning in credit card bills.

The economic downturn has spawned the rapid growth of debt settlement companies nationwide, firms that claim they can help a distressed borrower avoid bankruptcy by negotiating to pay off debt for pennies on the dollar.

However, such firms often cause greater financial harm by charging excessive fees, driving the customer deeper into debt and ruining already vulnerable credit ratings, according to a release from the treasurer's office.

Debt settlement companies instruct customers to stop sending payments to creditors and instead pay into a special account controlled by the company. Once enough money accumulates, the company contacts creditors to negotiate a lump sum payoff amounting to less than what is owed.

But nothing prevents the credit card companies from pursuing payment from the consumer during the accumulation period, and they regularly report consumers to collection agencies and take legal action to have wages garnished as interest and late fees add up.

Because it can take years before a settlement is reached, a majority of consumers drop out their plans, leaving them in a worse financial situation than before. If consumers do complete a settlement, they must pay taxes on the amount saved.

"Debt settlement companies claim to be a lifeboat for people drowning in debt," Giannoulias said in the release. "But their deceptive practices put consumers on a sinking ship toward bankruptcy."

"In their struggle to become debt-free, some families are being duped by the exaggerated claims of unscrupulous debt settlement companies," Chris Honenberger, CEO of ClearPoint Credit Counseling Solutions, a national non-profit counseling service, said in the release.

Giannoulias, according to the release, will propose legislation that would regulate debt settlement companies and set strict rules on how they operate, including:

-- Require firms to acquire a license and prove they are operating legitimately.

-- Cap fees at \$50 upfront and \$30 per month. Companies could collect additional fees but only for services rendered based on a percentage saved for the consumer (not on initial debt).

-- Prohibit debt settlers from advising consumers to stop paying bills.

-- Require companies to provide every consumer with monthly statements, revealing how much money was collected and what percentage was for fees and paying down debt.

For people who are in debt, the release recommends trying to negotiate a lower interest rate and payment plan directly with the creditor. In addition, there are non-profit options for consumers, including programs

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run by debt management firms, which are regulated by the state and prohibited from charging excessive fees or instructing clients to not pay bills. (Source: Sun-Times News Group Wire © Chicago Sun-Times 2009.)

FBI ARRESTS DOZENS FOR PHISHING ID THEFT SCHEME

LOS ANGELES — The FBI is arresting dozens of people in the United States and overseas to crack an identity theft ring that victimized thousands of people.

Laura Eimiller, an FBI spokeswoman in Los Angeles, says agents are making arrests Wednesday morning in Southern California, Nevada, North Carolina and overseas. She says about 100 arrests are expected, many in the Los Angeles area.

Eimiller says an indictment accuses the suspects of running a "phishing" scheme. They allegedly used computer intrusion and fraud to obtain personal information that allowed them to withdraw money from bank accounts.

In "phishing," people answering an e-mail are directed to a bogus Web site where they are asked to update personal information, such as passwords and account numbers. (www.foxnews.com, Wednesday, Oct. 07, 2009)

CHOICEPOINT TO PAY \$275,000 IN LATEST DATA BREACH

ChoicePoint, one of the nation's largest data brokers, has been fined \$275,000 by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for a data breach that exposed personal information of 13,750 people last year. In April 2008, ChoicePoint turned off a key electronic security tool that it used to monitor access to one of its databases and failed to notice the problem for four months, according to an FTC statement. During that period, unauthorized searches were conducted for 30 days on a ChoicePoint database that contained Social Security numbers and other sensitive information, the FTC said. The FTC alleged that ChoicePoint's conduct violated a 2006 court order requiring the company to institute a comprehensive information security program following a 2005 breach that compromised the personal information of more than 163,000 people and resulted in at least 800 cases of identity fraud. The company was ordered to pay \$10 million in civil penalties and \$5 million to consumers in that case. (10-21-2009, www.creditandcollectionnews.com)

PACE OF BANKRUPTCIES EASING. DECLINE ONE MORE SIGN OF RECOVERY

In another promising sign of economic recovery, the torrid pace of personal and business bankruptcies slowed during the third quarter. In the first quarterly decline since the overhaul of bankruptcy laws in 2005, commercial, or business, bankruptcy filings fell 4.5 percent to 22,710 in the third quarter from 23,782 in the second quarter, according to data compiled by Automated Access to Court Electronic Records, an Oklahoma City bankruptcy management and data company. The 7,405 business petitions filed in August and the 7,215 in September were the first back-to-back monthly declines since November and December of 2006, AACER data show. According to AACER, consumer bankruptcy filings from July to September continued a streak of 15 consecutive quarterly increases dating to enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act in October 2005. (10-12-09, www.creditandcollectionnews.com)

CREDIT BUREAU AUDIT

Due to changes in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, TU Experian and Equifax have required us to use updated forms. If you have been sent forms and have not returned them, unfortunately, your service will be turned off.

NO RECOVERY UNTIL LATE NEXT YEAR, SAY BUSINESS OWNERS

Half of small-business owners surveyed believe economic recovery is more than 12 months away, according to results of a monthly survey Discover Financial Services released this week.

Asked when they expect to see an economic recovery, 50% of small-business owners surveyed said it would take more than a year, while 28% said it would take six to 12 months, 13% said it would take less than six months, and 9% were unsure.

Some 44% of business owners believe the economy is getting worse, down from 46% who said so in September. Approximately 55% of those surveyed in October rated the economy as poor, up from 53% who did in September and from 48% who did in August.

Business owners who said they plan to decrease spending dropped to 44% in October from 50% the previous month, while those who said they plan to increase spending dropped to 23% from 25%.

"This could indicate that any significant

expansion and investment in the small-business sector isn't likely to arrive for quiet a while," Ryan Scully, Discover business card director, said of the report's findings.

The Discover Small Business Watch index rose to 88.5 in October from 87.7 the previous month. The index remains below the 89.8 mark reported in August. The Watch is a monthly report measuring the relative economic confidence of 750 randomly selected small-business owners based on their responses to six questions. Its creators established a base index of 100 when the Watch began in August 2006. (October 28, 2009, www.Collections&CreditRisk)

RAPID RESCORE

Rapid ReScore is a method where the credit bureaus are supposed to update a trade line in 2 to 3 days.

It is not cheap! The cost is usually about \$50.00 per trade line per bureau.

If you need a trade line updated, we need:
The Rescore Authorization form from you (the lender)
The Authorization from the consumer to update and verify their account(s).
We also need a letter from the consumer requesting the items to be corrected and a copy of the consumer's DL lic., and SS Card.
Any documents verifying the consumers statement.

The Rescore Authorization form is on our web page. Click on Credit Products and then on Member Documents.

If you have any questions, please call us.

KCB INFO SERVICES HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm

KCB Information Services offers: Consumer credit reports, Collections Reports, Business Credit reports, Employment Credit reports, Residential Mortgage Credit Reports, Merged Credit Reports, Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac access, Criminal background checks, Tenant Screening Reports, Flood Zone Determination, Flood Life of Loan Certification and Identity Authentication.

KCB Information Services has served businesses since 1928 and serves Central Illinois for Experian and Equifax.

PLASTIC BOTTLE NUMBERS

There are numbers on the bottle of most plastic bottles. These numbers (1-6) indicate the type of plastic and the usage. (10-11-09, Dr Rosenfeld, Fox News)

1. Not reusable. (soda and water)
2. Reusable. (milk)
3. Don't use. Reuse will release toxins. (cooking oil)
4. Reusable. (squeezeable)
5. Reusable. (butter)
6. Not reusable. Contains BPA (unbreakable water)