# SMART MARKET SECRET

#JUMPSTART
UPDATING
YOUR INFO

# **#Jumpstart Your Success**

# How to Remove Old Addresses from Your Credit Report

Removing old addresses and incorrect personal information could boost your score up dozens of points and increase the

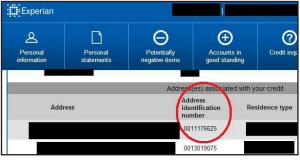
chance to remove any negative accounts associated with those old addresses.

This is a simple trick that will improve the odds of your letters working better.

Follow along and customize yours so you can send it out right away, and be on your way to your first #SMCWIN!

Look at the following image. You'll see a red circle that says "Address Identification Number". This is one of the ways the credit bureaus verify your account.

Now look further down on the second image on the next page.



As you can clearly see, the bank has the SAME address Identification number. If there is a mismatch, you are more likely to get the derogatory account removed.



Also, it is important to note that the entire disputing/challenging process is computerized. There are no human eyes that read your letters. In fact, your dispute/challenge letters are scanned by a computer, and a highly advanced algorithm attempts to are break it down into a two digit code through a system called e-Oscar. So if the computer notices a mismatch in the address ID, then you are also more likely to get the account removed. The same goes for your name. You may notice that your report has several versions of your name, last name first, middle initial, middle name, no middle name, etc. If you remove all of the variations,

> you are more likely to get the derogatory information off your report.

To update/remove/ change an address, you can either mail a simple certified letter, or send a fax to one of the fax numbers below. Be sure to

include a recent utility bill showing your address, as well as a copy of your driver's license and your Social Security Card.



IMPORTANT NOTE: Some people have also had positive results with Experian by uploading the letter to www.experian.com/upload

Here is a simple example letter you can send:

# Change of Address Letter

**Equifax:** 888-826-0573,

888-826-0549

TransUnion: 610-546-4606,

610-546-4771, 888-462-8009

Experian: 972-390-4918

A simple & free online faxing website you can use is http://www.HelloFax.com

If you get a busy signal, try again at another time - perhaps later in the evening.

### Date

Credit Bureau Name Credit Bureau Address

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to update/correct my personal information on file with your company.

Please update my address to:

# [Insert Address]

Please remove all the other addresses off my report, as they are not deliverable to me by the U.S. post office, and they are not reportable as per the FCRA, since they are inaccurate.

Sincerely,

### Name

Enc. Driver License, SSN Card, and Proof of Residence



# **Pro Tip: Credit Bureau Being Stubborn?**

If a credit bureau is being tough and not removing any of the personal information you'd like to remove, consider going to a UPS store or any other notary. Take a bill

with your current address, along with your driver's license, and get both notarized. Send this information to the bureaus and watch the old addresses disappear.

# How to Remove Inquiries from Your Credit Report

Did you know that you can remove hard inquiries from your credit report and raise your credit score? To understand how this works, first, we need to talk about the difference between a hard inquiry and a soft inquiry.

The amount of new credit inquiries account for about 10% of your credit score calculation.

That said, hard inquiries only damage your credit score temporarily. Inquiries that are over two years old don't affect your credit score

and inquiries over six months old have one-half of the effect on your score compared to recent inquiries. This is why you should never apply for any new credit cards if you intend to get a major loan like a mortgage within a six month period.

A soft inquiry (also known as a "soft pull") does not damage your credit score. A soft inquiry is made on your credit report when you pull your own report.

Some companies pull a soft inquiry on your credit file to see if you're worthy of them sending you pre-

approved credit card offers. Banks and other companies can also pull a soft inquiry to confirm your identity. Your prospective employer or landlord may pull a soft inquiry to assess your financial profile and risk. Credit card companies routinely perform a soft inquiry to check your credit report.

# Pro Tip: Soft Inquiries

In general, if an online store only asks for the last 4 digits of your social security number, they are

likely doing a soft inquiry. But we'll talk more later about which specific companies are best for this method.

Hard inquiries (also known as "hard pulls") appear on your credit report when a company pulls your credit report and evaluates it. This happens when you apply for new credit: a new credit card, store loan, car loan, mortgage, or personal loan. Every time you get a hard inquiry, your score can drop by a few points.



# **Inquiry Removal Letters**

# **Inquiry Removal Letter 1**

Send to the credit bureau to dispute unauthorized inquiries on your credit report.

Your Name

Your Address

Credit Bureau Name

Credit Bureau Address

Date

RE: Social Security Number: 000-00-0000

To Whom It May Concern,

While checking my most recent credit report, I noticed credit inquiries that I did not authorize, made by the following companies:

# Inquiries:

1. (insert company name & inquiry date)

2. (insert company name & inquiry date)

3. (insert company name & inquiry date)

I did not authorize anyone employed by these companies to make any inquiry and view my credit report. This is a violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act Section 1681b(c) and a serious breach of my privacy rights.

Please validate this information with these companies and provide me with copies of any documentation associated with these accounts bearing my signature, authorizing an inquiry. In the absence of any such documentation bearing my signature, I formally request that these fraudulent inquiries be immediately deleted from the credit file that you maintain under my Social Security number.

Please note that you have 30 days to complete this investigation, as per the Fair Credit Reporting Act section 611.

My contact information is as follows:

Your Name (printed or typed, not signed)

SSN

Address

# **Inquiry Removal Letter 2**

Send to the credit bureau if you receive no reply or they say the inquiries were "verified" from Inquiry Letter 1.

Your Name

Your Address

Creditor Name

Creditor Address

Date

RE: Social Security Number: 000-00-0000

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is a follow up to my original letter dated (insert date of original letter) regarding an inaccuracy in your credit reporting. Specifically as it relates to credit inquiries that I did not authorize, made by the following companies:

## Inquiries:

- 1. (insert company name & inquiry date)
- 2. (insert company name & inquiry date)
- 3. (insert company name & inquiry date)

I did not authorize anyone employed by these companies to make any inquiry and view my credit report. This is a violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act Section 1681b(c) and a serious breach of my privacy rights.

I am making this final goodwill gesture to allow you to correct your erroneous reporting, and I am maintaining a careful record of my communications with you for the purpose of filing a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Attorney General's office, should you continue in your non-compliance. I further remind you that, as in Wenger v. Trans Union Corp., No. 95-6445 (C.D.Cal. Nov. 14, 1995), you may be liable for your willful non-compliance.

Failure to respond satisfactorily within 30 days of receipt of this certified letter may result in a small claims action against your company, seeking \$1,000 per violation for:

- 1.) Defamation
- 2.) Negligent Enablement of Identity Fraud
- 3.) Violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act

(Letter continued on next page)

(Inquiry removal letter #2 continued)

My contact information is as follows:

Your Name (printed or typed, not signed)

SSN

Address

P.S. Please be aware that dependent upon your response, I may be detailing any potential issues with your company via an online public press release, including documentation of any potential small claims action.

Cc: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Cc: Attorney General's Office Cc: Better Business Bureau



# Requesting the Removal of Hard Inquiries Sent Directly to Creditor

The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows only authorized inquiries to appear on the consumer credit report. You can challenge whether the inquiring creditor had proper authorization to pull your credit file. Keep a copy for your files and send the letters registered mail.

# **Inquiry Removal Letter 3**

Your Name

Your Address

Creditor Name

Creditor Address

Date

Re: Unauthorized Credit Inquiry

To Whom It May Concern,

I recently received a copy of my credit report. The credit report showed a credit inquiry by your company that I do not recall authorizing. I understand that you shouldn't be allowed to put an inquiry on my credit file unless I have authorized it. Please have this inquiry removed from my credit file immediately because it is making it very difficult for me to acquire credit.

I have sent this letter certified mail because I need your prompt response to this issue. Please be so kind as to forward me documentation that you've had the unauthorized inquiry removed.

If you find that I am remiss, and you do have my authorization to inquire into my credit report, then please send me proof of this. Otherwise, please note that I am reserving the right to take civil action if necessary.

Thank you,

Your Name (printed or typed, not signed)

