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## Information Provided Concerning the Disclosure and Authorization Pertaining to Consumer Reports pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)

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A required component of your investigation for employment in a moderate or high risk position or National Security Clearance is an inquiry with a credit bureau. Under the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 § U.S.C. 1681 b), Section 604, (b)(2)(A) and (B), Permissible Purposes of Consumer Reports, we may not obtain the report unless:

- "a clear and conspicuous disclosure has been made in writing to the consumer at any time before the report is procured or caused to be procured, in a document that consists solely of the disclosure, that a consumer report, may be obtained for employment purposes; and
- "the consumer has authorized in writing the procurement of the report by that person."

The attached **Disclosure and Authorization Pertaining to Consumer Reports Pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act** must be signed so we can conduct an inquiry with a credit bureau and complete your investigation. Failure to complete this form and comply with the investigative requirements for the position you currently occupy or have been selected for could result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal. If the Department of the Treasury intends to take any adverse action based in whole or in part on your credit report, you are entitled to certain protections set out in the Fair Credit Reporting Act. These protections are provided below.

### **A Summary of Your Rights** Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) is designed to promote accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of every "consumer reporting agency" (CRA). Most CRAs are credit bureaus that gather and sell information about you -- such as if you pay your bills on time or have filed bankruptcy -- to creditors, employers, landlords, and other businesses. You can find the complete text of the FCRA in 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1681u. The FCRA gives you specific rights, as outlined below. You may have additional rights under state law. You may contact a state or local consumer protection agency or a state attorney general to learn those rights.

- **You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.** Anyone who uses information from a CRA to take action against you -- such as denying an application for credit, insurance, or employment -- must tell you, and give you the name, address, and phone number of the CRA that provided the consumer report.
- **You can find out what is in your file.** At your request, a CRA must give you the information in your file, and a list of everyone who has requested it recently. There is no charge for the report if a person has taken action against you because of information supplied by the CRA, if you request the report within 60 days of receiving notice of the action. You also are entitled to one free report every twelve months upon request if you certify that (1) you are unemployed and plan to seek employment within 60 days, (2) you are on welfare, or (3) your report is inaccurate due to fraud. Otherwise, a CRA may charge you up to eight dollars.
- **You can dispute inaccurate information with the CRA.** If you tell a CRA that your file contains inaccurate information, the CRA must investigate the items (usually within 30 days) by presenting to its information source all relevant evidence you submit, unless your dispute is frivolous. The source must review your evidence and report its findings to the CRA. (The source also must advise national CRAs -- to which it has provided the data -- of any error.) The CRA must give you a written report of the investigation and a copy of your report of the investigation results in any change. If the CRA's investigation does not resolve the dispute, you may add a brief statement to your file. The CRA must normally include a summary of your statement in future reports. If an item is deleted or a dispute statement is filed, you may ask that anyone who has recently received your report be notified of the change.
- **Inaccurate information must be corrected or deleted.** A CRA must remove or correct inaccurate or unverified information from its files, usually within 30 days after you dispute it. However, the CRA is not required to remove accurate data from your file unless it is outdated (as described below) or cannot be verified. If your dispute results in any change to your report, the CRA cannot reinsert into your file a disputed item unless the information source verifies its accuracy and completeness. In addition, the CRA must give you a written notice telling you it has reinserted the item. The notice must include the name, address and phone number of the information source.

- **You can dispute inaccurate items with the source of the information.** If you tell anyone -- such as a creditor who reports to a CRA -- that you dispute an item, they may not then report the information to a CRA without including a notice of your dispute. In addition, once you have notified the source of the error in writing, it may not continue to report the information if it is, in fact, an error.
- **Outdated information may not be reported.** In most cases, a CRA may not report negative information that is more than seven years old; ten years for bankruptcies.
- **Access to your file is limited.** A CRA may provide information about you only to people with a need recognized by the FCRA - usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business.
- **Your consent is required for reports that are provided to employers, or reports that contain medical information.** A CRA may not give out information about you to your employer, or prospective employer, without your written consent. A CRA may not report medical information about you to creditors, insurers, or employers without your permission.
- **You may choose to exclude your name from CRA lists for unsolicited credit and insurance offers. Creditors and insurers may use file information as the basis for sending you unsolicited offers of credit or insurance. Such offers must include a toll-free phone number for you to call if you want your name and address removed from future lists. If you call, you must be kept off the lists for two years. If you request, complete, and return the CRA form provided for this purpose, you must be taken off the lists indefinitely.**
- **You may seek damages from violators.** If a CRA, a user or (in some cases) a provider of CRA data, violates the FCRA, you may sue them in state or federal court.

The FCRA gives several different federal agencies authority to enforce the FCRA:

For questions or concerns regarding:	Please contact:
CRAs, creditors and others not listed below	Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center - FCRA Washington, DC 20580 * 202-326-3761
National banks, federal branches/agencies of foreign banks (word "National" or initials "N.A." appear in or after banks name)	Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Compliance Management, Mail Stop 6-6 Washington, DC 20219 * 800-613-6743
Federal Reserve System member banks (except national banks, and federal branches/agencies of foreign banks)	Federal Reserve Board Division of Consumer & Community Affairs Washington, DC 20551 * 202-452-3693
Savings associations and federally chartered savings banks (word "Federal" or initials "F.S.B." appear in federal institutions name)	Office of Thrift Supervision Consumer Programs Washington, DC 20552 * 800-842-6929
Federal credit unions (words "Federal Credit Union" appear in institutions name)	National Credit Union Administration 1775 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314 * 703-518-6360
State-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Division of Compliance & Consumer Affairs Washington, DC 20429 * 800-934-FDIC
Air, surface, or rail common carriers regulated by former Civil Aeronautics Board or Interstate Commerce Commission	Department of Transportation Office of Financial Management Washington, DC 20590 * 202-366-1306
Activities subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921	Department of Agriculture Office of Deputy Administrator - GIPSA Washington, DC 20250 * 202-720-7051

**United States Department of the Treasury**

**Disclosure and Authorization Pertaining to Consumer Reports**

**Pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act**

This is a release for the Department of the Treasury to obtain one or more consumer/credit reports about you for an investigation in connection with your application for employment or in the course of your employment with the Department of the Treasury, including your employment as an IRS contractor. One or more reports about you may be obtained for employment purposes, including evaluating your suitability for employment, promotion or reassignment which results in a change to your position risk level, or access to classified information.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize the Department of the Treasury to obtain such report(s) from any consumer/credit reporting agency for employment purposes. This authorization is valid for 5 years from the signed date, or upon the termination of my employment with the Internal Revenue Service/Department of Treasury, or until the IRS has completed the investigation, whichever is sooner. If I apply for another position that requires a credit inquiry, I understand that I will be required to complete a new authorization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(This page must be returned with your investigative paperwork)

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**Privacy Act**

This form is in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974. Our authorized right to ask for this information is 5 U.S.C. 301 and Executive Order 10450, which established the criteria for sensitive Government positions. The information you supply by signing this release of information form will be used principally to aid in the completion of an investigation to determine your suitability for employment in the Federal service or for other employment purposes. Such purposes include, but are not limited to, a security clearance, evaluation of qualification, suitability, loyalty to the United States, and eligibility for access to government facilities, information, or information technology systems. The information obtained may be re-disclosed to other Federal agencies for the above purposes and to the extent that is authorized by law.

Your signature on this release is voluntary; however, your failure to complete this form may mean that the required information cannot be obtained to complete your investigation. This may affect your placement or security clearance prospects.

If the Department of the Treasury intends to take any adverse action based in whole or in part on your credit report, you are entitled to certain protections set out in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681b. These protections are attached for your information.