



# FINANCIAL PLANNING RESOURCES:

## CONTROLLING ACCESS TO YOUR CREDIT

A CREDIT FREEZE, ALSO KNOWN AS A SECURITY FREEZE, IS A WAY FOR YOU TO HAVE MAXIMUM CONTROL OF ACCESS TO YOUR CREDIT.

### Need a reason for freezin'?

Have you or someone you know been a victim of identity theft or one of the recent high-profile credit card data breaches? If so, you may have already taken extra steps to protect your credit in the future. If not, consider yourself lucky—but don't be complacent. Be prepared!

To monitor existing credit accounts, everyone should take advantage of their one free credit report per year from each of the three credit bureaus—Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. Mark your calendar or set reminders on your phone for one every four months, so you're alternating credit bureaus and getting your three free reports per year.

Becoming more familiar with the content of your credit files will make it easier to spot errors if they occur—and catching errors early will simplify the process of



getting them corrected.

In addition to regularly monitoring your existing credit records, you may want to

consider a credit freeze, also known as a “security freeze.” A credit freeze is a way for you to have maximum control of access to your credit.

## Credit Bureau Contact Information

TransUnion  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022-2000  
(888) 909-8872  
<https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze/place-credit-freeze>

Equifax  
P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
(800) 349-9960  
<https://www.freeze.equifax.com>

Experian  
P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
(888) 397-3742  
<https://www.experian.com/freeze>

## What is a Credit Freeze?

A credit freeze is a way to completely block others from accessing your credit report. Credit freezes are designed to prevent a credit reporting agency from releasing your credit report without your consent. They do not protect your existing accounts or affect your credit score.

## Do I need to freeze my credit?

If you want maximum control of your credit, are concerned that you will be a target of identity theft or fraud, you have already been a victim of ID theft/fraud, or are the guardian of a minor or medically incapacitated consumer who won't need to apply for credit in the foreseeable future, then you should freeze your credit.



## Are there any consequences to placing a freeze on my credit?

Using a credit freeze to control access to the information in your file may delay approval of subsequent credit requests. You may need to allow extra time for approvals on new loans, credit applications, mortgages,



insurance, rental housing, employment, etc. Plan ahead by lifting a freeze a day or so before applying for a new credit account.

## What if I need to access my credit?

If you need to access new credit, you can lift the freeze temporarily or permanently with the PIN supplied when the freeze is put in place. If you place a temporary lift, you can elect to do this for a period of time or for a specific party. Lead time may vary by credit bureau; however, the credit reporting company is required to lift the freeze within three business days of receiving the request.

## How do I request a Credit Freeze?

A credit freeze may be placed, lifted or removed free of charge. You may place your request by phone, email or online. You will need to give your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, and other personal information. Contact information for the credit bureaus is listed on the front of this sheet. We are happy to assist if you need help or have any questions!

## When should you consider a security freeze?

- ➔ You want maximum control over access to your credit report
- ➔ You are concerned that you might become a victim of fraud or identity theft
- ➔ You are a victim of fraud or identity theft
- ➔ You won't need to apply for credit in the foreseeable future
- ➔ You are the guardian of a minor or medically incapacitated consumer who won't need to apply for credit in the foreseeable future



INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT  
FINANCIAL PLANNING  
RETIREMENT PLANS  
TRUST ADMINISTRATION

800 Poyntz Avenue  
P.O. Box 1806  
Manhattan, KS 66505  
785.537.7200

4210 Philips Farm Road, Suite 109  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573.876.7000

333 West 9th Street, Suite A  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
785.371.9555

908 Broadway, Suite B  
Marysville, KS 66508  
785.562.2344

[financialplanning@thetrustco.com](mailto:financialplanning@thetrustco.com)

THETRUSTCO.COM  
800.285.7878

