

From: D&S Crist
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2004 4:40 PM
To: FACTAscoringstudy
Subject: Facta Scores Study...

To Whom It May Concern;
RE: Facta Scores Study

I am writing as a citizen of the United States and as a consumer. It has been brought to my attention that the FTC is seeking public input on the matter of Facta scores and their impact. More specifically, whether or not such scoring is discriminatory when it comes to evaluating a consumers "worthiness" for such products as mortgages, insurance, credit cards, auto loans and other such products.

As a consumer it is my strong opinion that the credit scoring outlined most definitely is discriminatory and has a large, negative impact. It denotes a "can't win for losing" ideal that is too easy to achieve, especially in our present economic times. It's so easy to attain "bad" credit and yet so difficult to attain good credit.

The scoring itself is not only flawed but the way in which information is allowed to be reported is also flawed. For example; a creditor is allowed to do a hard pull on a consumers credit report without any restraint, without any real limits and without authorization and this alone can bring a consumers credit score down. Also, paying a debt doesn't necessarily improve ones credit and it's my belief that it should because it would provide further incentive for the consumer to work their way back to good credit and to pay their debts. Besides, if not paying a debt is bad then paying it should be good. All of these things and more are road blocks to the financial products your organization has specified. What makes matters worse is the loss of ones employment or line of work. Since it's so easy to attain "bad" credit it makes it that much harder once a person is able to re-enter the work force, especially since some employers are now allowed to also run credit ! checks. We have a rim of society that relies on consumers not knowing their rights and to me, that's sad.

It is my personal belief that the consumer should have to give their direct authorization for ANY credit pull by a company that the consumer has not done direct business with and that they should be informed IMMEDIATELY if something negative is going to be added to their credit report. It's also my belief that if a creditor (collection agency) is going to be allowed to do a hard pull on someones credit report that they not be allowed to do so but every 6 months or more (and that includes using other names, should be one UBI number regardless).

If there are going to be limits to us as the consumers, there should also be limits to the creditors and credit reporting agencies.

In order to even rent a steam cleaner to clean ones carpet a consumer has to have a credit card. In order to drive a vehicle, a consumer has to have insurance. As consumers we've been put in the position where we "have" to have some of these things and yet due to the nature of the credit reporting industry it's almost impossible to attain some of these things.

It is my opinion that if the laws and rules are going to demand that a consumer have something such as insurance that this should be easier to attain. Specifically the law for insurance-in no way should credit be involved.

As is, the credit scoring is most definitely discriminatory. Once a consumer is "branded" as a credit risk (thus discriminated against) that consumer must wait 7+ yrs to work their way back and to me that just isn't acceptable. Things need to change, they really do. I'm sorry I couldn't have been more eloquent in my comments but this issue hits close to home for me.

Stacy Crist, a concerned citizen.

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