

The Right to Opt-Out of Prescreening

General FAQs

What is 5 Year Opt-Out?

Opting-Out refers to the process for removing your name from lists supplied by the Consumer Credit Reporting Companies, Equifax, Experian, Innovis and TransUnion ("CRAs"), to be used for firm (pre-approved / prescreened) offers of credit or insurance. Your rights as a consumer under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) include the right to "Opt-Out" for 5 years or permanently. By choosing the 5 Year option, your name will not be eligible for inclusion on lists used for firm offers of credit or insurance for five years.

You can opt-out by visiting <https://www.optoutprescreen.com/faq.htm> or through the toll-free telephone number, 888-567-8688.

What is Permanent Opt-Out?

Your rights as a consumer under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) include the right to Opt-Out for 5 years or permanently. If you choose permanent Opt-Out, you must "confirm" your request in writing by submitting a signed Permanent Opt-Out Election form. At the time that you submit your electronic request through the website, you will receive a confirmation that you should print along with the Permanent Opt-Out Election Form.

Why do I need to print and mail a Permanent Opt-Out Election Form in order for my permanent Opt-Out request to become effective?

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), upon receipt of a notice from a consumer, the CRAs are required to exclude a consumer's name from the firm (pre-approved / prescreened) lists that they provide in connection with a credit or insurance offer that is not initiated by a consumer. The FCRA requires that the consumer submit a signed notice of election (Permanent Opt-Out Election form) for a permanent Opt-Out request. In the interim, your 5 year Opt-Out request can be completed on your behalf within 5 business days. Your request to make your opt-out permanent will occur upon receipt of your signed Permanent Opt-Out Election form.

What is Opt-In?

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the CRAs are permitted to include your name on lists used by creditors or insurers to make firm (preapproved / prescreened) offers of credit or insurance. If you have previously completed a request to Opt-Out from receiving firm offers, you must complete a request to Opt-In to begin receiving offers again. You do not need to complete a request to Opt-In if you have not previously submitted an Opt-Out request.

What is a firm (pre-approved / prescreened) offer of credit or insurance?

A firm offer of credit or insurance is defined as any offer of credit or insurance to a consumer that will be honored if the consumer is determined, based on the consumer's credit report, to meet the specific criteria used to select the consumer for the offer, subject to certain confirmation requirements.

Does exercising my right to Opt-Out affect my ability to apply for credit or insurance?

No, removing your name from these lists for firm offers of credit or insurance does not affect your ability to apply for or obtain credit or insurance.

Does Opting-Out improve my credit score?

No, since inquiries for firm offers for credit or insurance are not used in calculating credit scores, Opting-Out does not improve your credit score. Similarly, inquiries for firm offers for credit or insurance do not reduce your credit score.

I would like to submit an Opt-In or Opt-Out request for other members of my family. Is this permitted?

No. You may only submit an Opt-In or Opt-Out request for yourself and/or for third parties for whom you are the legal parent, guardian, executor, administrator, etc.

I submitted an Opt-Out request several weeks ago and I'm still receiving offers?

Even though your request becomes effective with the CRAs within five days of your request, you may not see an immediate reduction in the amount of offers you receive. This is because your name may have already been provided to some companies that have not yet mailed their offers to you. While your name will be removed from the lists that CRAs provide to businesses for the purpose of making you a firm offer of credit or insurance, you may continue to receive offers from sources that do not use CRAs to compile their lists.

You can also Opt-Out through Direct Mail Association (DMA). The DMA tracks consumers who prefer not to receive mail or telephone solicitations. The DMA can provide information about Opting-Out of lists produced by companies that subscribe to its Mail and Telephone Preference Services. You may contact the DMA at the following web address:

<http://www.dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html>.

I've submitted Opt-Out requests through www.optoutprescreen.com and to the Direct Mail Association (DMA), but I'm still receiving offers.

Opting-Out will not end solicitations from all local merchants, religious and charitable associations, professional and alumni associations, politicians, and companies with which you conduct business. To eliminate mail from these groups – as well as mail addressed to "occupant" or "resident" - write directly to each source.

How do I contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)?

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
Room 130
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580
www.ftc.gov/credit/

Is this website legitimate?

OptOutPrescreen.com is the only internet website authorized by Equifax, Experian, Innovis and TransUnion for consumers to Opt-Out of firm offers of credit or insurance. You may request to Opt-Out from firm offer lists for 5 years or permanently. If you have previously completed a request to Opt-Out from receiving firm offers and would like to Opt-In, you may also complete your request on this website. Consumers should not provide their personal information to any other company or person in connection with requesting Opt-Out services under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

How secure is my information?

OptOutPrescreen.com recognizes the importance of secure online transactions, and uses security technologies to safeguard the information you provide through the website, such as encryption. When your information is transmitted to the Consumer Credit Reporting Companies, your information is encrypted.

What security procedures do you use for this website to protect the confidentiality of my social security number?

Your Social Security Number is not required to process an Opt-Out request through OptOutPrescreen.com. However, the website strongly urges you to provide this information because it helps to ensure that they can successfully process your request. The website's security protocols and measures are designed to protect the personally identifiable information you provide from unauthorized access or alteration.