

THIS SERVICES AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into this \_\_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ the ("Effective Date") by and between S2Verify, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company with an address of 3600 Mansell Road, Suite 275, Alpharetta, GA 30022, ("S2Verify"), and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, with its principal place of business at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

("Customer").

# 1. SERVICES.

Customer will receive and S2Verify will provide the services described in Exhibit A or any services attachment ("Services Attachment") entered into between Customer and S2Verify under this Agreement ("Services").

# 2. TERM AND TERMINATION.

Except as set forth herein, this Agreement will become effective on the Effective Date and will continue in full force and effect until it is terminated by either party pursuant to the terms contained herein, or until the expiration or termination of all Services Attachments entered into pursuant to this Agreement. Either party may terminate this Agreement or any Services Attachment (unless otherwise set forth in such Services Attachment) for convenience upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. If a Services Attachment does not specify the terms upon which automatic renewal shall occur, then such Services Attachment shall automatically renew upon the occurrence of the expiration date thereof, unless either party upon not less than 60 days written notice to the other party, indicates its intention not to renew such Services Attachment. In the event this Agreement is terminated, then all Services Attachments shall be terminated as well.

Either party may terminate this Agreement or any Services Attachment if the other party materially breaches this Agreement and/or such Services Attachment and such breaching party fails to cure the breach, or implement a plan of action that is mutually acceptable to the parties to cure such breach, within ten (10) days after receipt of written notice from the non-breaching party specifying in reasonable detail the nature of the breach.

Upon the termination of this Agreement, the following shall apply: (a) the parties shall cooperate to effect an orderly, efficient, effective and expeditious termination of the activities hereunder; (b) S2Verify shall return to Customer any and all Customer furnished items delivered by Customer to S2Verify hereunder; (c) S2Verify shall have no obligation to perform any services hereunder after the effective date of the termination; (d) Customer shall pay to S2Verify any Service Fees or other amounts payable for the services performed hereunder prior to the effective date of the termination; and (e) the parties' respective rights and obligations under this paragraph, and the

covenants contained in this Agreement which, by their terms, require performance by the parties after the expiration or termination of this Agreement shall survive and be enforceable notwithstanding the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever.

# 3. CUSTOMER CERTIFICATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS.

Customer certifies that the information contained in the Services (each delivery of Services is a "Report") provided by S2Verify will be used only for the following permissible purpose, as indicated below, and that it will not use the information contained in the Reports for any other purpose:

- $\Box$  For employment and/or volunteer purposes, including evaluating a consumer for employment, promotion, reassignment or retention as an employee and/or volunteer (FCRA § 604(a)(3)(B)).
- In accordance with the written instructions of the consumer to whom it relates. (FCRA  $\S 604(a)(2)$ ).
- For a legitimate business need for the information, in connection with a business transaction that is initiated by the consumer, such as for the purpose of tenant screening. (FCRA 604(a)(3)(F)(i)).
- For use by a potential investor or servicer, or current insurer, in connection with a valuation of, or an assessment of the credit or prepayment risks associated with an existing credit obligation. (FCRA 604(a)(3)(E)).

Customer shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding the use of the Services including the Fair Credit Reporting Act, ("FCRA"), and the Driver's Privacy Protection Act ("DPPA"). Customer will not use information contained in the Services to discriminate unlawfully against consumer or otherwise misuse the information, as provided by any applicable federal or state equal opportunity laws or regulations. Customer is responsible for its own regulatory compliance and staying current with the applicable laws involved in the use of the Services.

Customer shall hold the Services in strict confidence and all information contained within the Services will be treated as Confidential Information. The Services shall be requested by, and disclosed by Customer only to Customer's designated and authorized employees having a need to know and only to the extent necessary to enable Customer to use the Services in accordance with this Agreement and any Services Attachment. Customer shall ensure that such designated and authorized employees shall not attempt to obtain any Services on themselves, associates, or any other person except in the exercise of their official duties.

If the information products Customer obtains from S2Verify are to be used for an employment purpose, Customer certifies that prior to obtaining or causing a "consumer report" and/or "investigative consumer report" to be obtained, Customer has obtained a clear and conspicuous disclosure in a document made in writing to the consumer, consisting *solely of the disclosure*, which explains that a consumer report and/or investigative consumer report may be obtained for employment purposes. This disclosure will satisfy all requirements identified in Section

606(a)(1) of the FCRA, as well as any applicable state or local laws. The Customer also certifies that the consumer's written authorization has been obtained to procure the consumer report. Customer shall maintain the signed authorization form for a period of six (6) years.

If applicable, Customer shall follow prescribed pre-adverse action procedures as prescribed in the FCRA and applicable state laws. This includes the requirement to provide a consumer with a copy of the Report and *A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act* before taking any adverse action against the consumer, based in whole or in part, on the Services provided by S2Verify. If Customer actually takes adverse action then after the appropriate waiting period, Customer will issue to the consumer notice of the adverse action taken, including the statutorily required notices identified in Sections 604 and 615 of the FCRA.

Customer further acknowledges that S2Verify is not legal counsel and does not provide legal advice. It is important that Customer obtain and work closely with their own legal counsel to ensure that their overall screening program, including the use of the Services, complies with all applicable state and federal laws.

Customer certifies that they shall use any Reports obtained from TransUnion: (a) solely for the certified use(s); and (b) solely for their exclusive one-time use. Customer shall not request, obtain or use the Transunion Reports for any other purpose including, but not limited to, for the purpose of selling, leasing, renting or otherwise providing information obtained under this Agreement to any other party, whether alone, in conjunction with Customer's own data, or otherwise in any service which is derived from the Reports. Customer represents it is not a private detective agency, investigative company, bail bondsman, credit or financial counselling firm, 'credit repair clinic" or a similar organization.

If the Services include motor vehicle information ("MVRs"), Customer shall be responsible for understanding and for staying current with all specific state forms, certificates of use or other documents or agreements including any changes, supplements or amendments thereto imposed by the states ("Specific State Forms") from which it will order MVRs. Customer certifies that it has filed all applicable Specific State Forms required by individual states.

Customer hereby certifies that, under the Investigative consumer reporting Agencies Act ("ICRA"), California Civil Code Sections 1786 et seq., and the Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act ("CCRAA"), California Civil Code Sections 1785.1 et seq., if the Customer is located in the State of California, and/or the Customer's request for and/or use of Services pertains to a California resident or worker, Customer will do the following:

(i) When, at any time, Services are sought for employment purposes other than suspicion of wrongdoing or misconduct by the consumer who is the subject of the investigation, abide by the requirements of ICRA Section 1786.16(a) – (b).

#### 4. GDPR AND NOTICES.

If S2Verify processes consumers' personal identification information ("PII) related to residents of the European Economic Area, United Kingdom or Switzerland (collectively, "EEA PII"), the subject-matter and duration of the processing of EEA PII, the nature and purpose of such Processing, the type of EEA PII and categories of individuals to whom the EEA PII relates, and the obligations and rights of Customer with respect thereto are set forth in Schedule EEA to this Agreement which is found at <u>http://www.s2verify.com/resources</u>.

Customer acknowledges receipt of the Notice to Users of Consumer Reports: Obligations of Users under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (attached as Exhibit X-1).

Customer acknowledges receipt of *A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act*, a copy of which must be provided to Customer's personnel (attached as Exhibit XX-2).

# 5. DISPOSAL OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Customer shall properly dispose of the information contained within the Services in a manner which will protect against unauthorized access or use thereof or any actions that would otherwise jeopardize the confidentiality of PII contained in the Services. This means having policies and procedures in place that require the burning, pulverizing, or shredding of papers containing personal information so that the information cannot practically be read or reconstructed. If such information is in electronic format, this includes having policies and procedures in place to destroy or erase such personal information, so it cannot practically be read or reconstructed.

## 6. AUDIT.

Customer understands and agrees that, in order to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations or rules, including regulatory agency requirements, obligations under its contracts with its data providers, and S2Verify's internal policies, S2Verify, or its designee, may conduct periodic reviews of Customer's use of the services provided by S2Verify and may, upon reasonable notice and during Customer's regular business hours, audit Customer's records, processes and procedures related to Customer's use, storage and disposal of those Services, PII and Confidential Information, including performing site visits at Customer's premises.

Customer shall cooperate fully in connection with any such audit, including bearing its own costs of such process, and will allow, or obtain, access to such systems, properties, records and personnel as S2Verify may reasonably require for such audit. Customer agrees to respond to any such audit inquiry within ten (10) business days, unless an expedited response is required by S2Verify. Violations of this Agreement, applicable law, regulations or rules, or applicable policies, discovered in any review and/or audit by S2Verify will be subject to immediate action including, but not limited to, suspension or termination of the services by S2Verify as well as potential legal action, and/or referral to governmental regulatory agencies.

#### 7. PASSWORDS.

S2Verify will randomly assign Customer username(s) and password(s) for personnel who are authorized to obtain Services. For security purposes, S2Verify will automatically change such password(s) ninety (90) days after it is issued and provide written notice to Customer of the new password(s). At any time, Customer may contact S2Verify to request changes to any username(s) or password(s) assigned by S2Verify. Customer solely is responsible for, and will be billed for all Services purchased using the usernames assigned to it. If Customer learns or suspects that unauthorized use of its account is taking place, or if the user's (employee) employment is terminated by Customer, then Customer shall immediately notify S2Verify in writing and S2 Verify will replace the username and password.

#### 8. SECURITY.

In addition to maintaining reasonable procedures to assure compliance with the FCRA and the confidentiality of PII contained in the Services, each party shall implement commercially available and reasonable security procedures and safeguards to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information and to maintain the confidentiality and the security of such information. Customer has received a copy of S2Verify's current Access Security Requirements, and agrees to comply with such requirements, as they may be modified by S2Verify from time-to-time; to give all employees a copy prior to providing them authority to order or other access to S2Verify Services; and to provide such employees with updates when available.

# 9. WEBSITE.

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement and any Services Attachment, S2Verify grants to Customer a nontransferable, nonexclusive license to access S2Verify's website solely for the purpose of retrieving Services and Services related information from S2Verify. Customer understands and agrees that its use of the Services is subject to restrictions imposed by S2Verify's data suppliers, this Agreement, the Services Attachments and federal and state laws. Customer shall comply with all such restrictions, whether such notice is provided in writing or given online, and such restrictions are incorporated herein by reference.

Customer acknowledges and agrees that S2Verify alone owns all rights, title, and interest in its website and its internet-based system, including all intellectual property rights embodied therein. S2Verify reserves its entire copyright, trademark, trade secret and other intellectual property rights in and to its website. No title to or ownership of any copyright, trademark, trade secret or other intellectual property right in such website is transferred to Customer under this Agreement. The Services delivered by S2 Verify to Customer under this Agreement are delivered subject to any copyright, trademark, trade secret and other proprietary rights of S2Verify.

## 10. DISCLAIMER.

THE WEBSITE AND THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" AND "AS AVAILABLE" BASIS AND S2VERIFY AND ITS DATA PROVIDERS MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WITH RESPECT TO THE WEBSITE, THE SERVICES OR THE DATA UNDERLYING THE SERVICES INCLUDING GUARANTEES OR WARRANTIES FOR ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN ADDITION, NEITHER S2VERIFY NOR ITS DATA PROVIDERS

SHALL BEAR ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY ERROR, OMISSION OR DEFECT IN ITS WEBSITE, THE SERVICES OR THE UNDERLYING DATA INCLUDING ANY INABILITY TO USE THE WEBSITE OR ANY LOSS OF DATA AND MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ARISING BY LAW OR OTHERWISE, REGARDING THESE ITEMS, THEIR PERFORMANCE OR SUITABILITY FOR CUSTOMER'S INTENDED USE, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, NO IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT ANY BACKGROUND SCREENING CRITERIA EMBODIED IN THE REPORTS DISTRIBUTED BY S2VERIFY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED, ESTABLISHED BY AND APPROVED BY CUSTOMER AND THAT S2VERIFY BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING SUCH SCREENING CRITERIA OR MAKING ANY DECISIONS BASED ON SUCH SCREENING CRITERIA.

# 11. INDEMNIFICATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.

**Indemnification by S2 Verify.** S2Verify agrees to and does hereby indemnify, defend and hold Customer harmless from and against any and all loss, cost, expense, claim, or liability (including, but not limited to reasonable costs of litigation and attorneys' fees) arising from any claim or action brought by a third person against Customer that arises out of, results from, or is based upon the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of S2Verify.

**Indemnification by Customer.** Customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless S2Verify, its data vendors, suppliers, officers and employees from and against any and all loss, cost, expense, claim, or liability (including, but not limited to reasonable costs of litigation and attorneys' fees) arising from any claim or action brought by a third person that arises out of or is related to Customer's use of the Services and its underlying data. Customer acknowledges and agrees that S2Verify's data providers are a third party beneficiary of the provisions of this section, with right of enforcement.

Limitation of Liability. S2VERIFY AND ITS DATA PROVIDERS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO CUSTOMER, OR ANY THIRD PERSON TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED UNDER APPLICABLE LAW, FOR INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, EXEMPLARY, PUNITIVE, MULTIPLE, INCIDENTAL, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR LOST REVENUES, LOST PROFITS, LOST SAVINGS, COSTS OF PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES, BUSINESS INTERRUPTION, OR LOSS OF BUSINESS INFORMATION), EVEN IF SUCH PARTY HAS BEEN APPRISED OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH DAMAGES OCCURRING. S2VERIFY'S LIABILITY HEREUNDER IS LIMITED TO THE LOWER OF (i) THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00 US) PER REPORT DISTRIBUTED BY S2VERIFY HEREUNDER THAT PROXIMATELY CAUSED, OR ALLEGEDLY PROXIMATELY CAUSED, THE COST OR DAMAGE ALLEGEDLY SUFFERED BY CUSTOMER OR (ii) AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00 US). THE REMEDIES SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH AND TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THE TERMS HEREOF ARE CUSTOMER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES FOR CLAIMS OR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING IN ANY WAY TO THIS AGREEMENT, THE SERVICES OR THE UNDERLYING DATA DELIVERED BY S2VERIFY HEREUNDER.

#### **12. FORCE MAJEURE.**

S2Verify shall not be liable for, or be considered to be in breach or default on account of, any delay or failure to perform any services due to any cause or condition beyond its reasonable control (including, but not limited to any fire, storm, flood, wind and acts of God or the elements; breakdown of or damage to any equipment, facilities or other property; unavailability of materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, services and other necessary items; and any act or omission of Customer).

## 13. NOTICE.

Except as otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, any notice required or authorized by this Agreement to be given by one party to the other party shall be sent either: (i) electronically by email; (ii) by overnight or 3rd day mail; or (iii) by facsimile transmission with confirmed receipt to the other party at the address or, as appropriate, facsimile number, and marked for the attention of such person as specified in this Agreement. Any notice sent electronically by email shall be deemed to have been received by the other party upon delivery to the email address specified in this Agreement.

# 14. CONFIDENTIALITY.

The term "Confidential Information" shall mean this Agreement and all data, trade secrets, business information and other information of any kind whatsoever that one party hereto discloses, in writing, orally, visually or in any other medium to the other party hereto or to which recipient obtains access and that relates to the disclosing party. Each of the parties, as recipients, hereby agree that they shall not disclose Confidential Information of the disclosing party to any third party during or after the term of this Agreement, other than on a "need to know" basis and then only to recipient's employees, provided that such persons are subject to a written confidentiality agreement that shall be no less restrictive than the provisions of this Section. Recipients shall not use or disclose Confidential Information of the disclose other than to carry out this Agreement.

Nothing in this Section will prohibit or limit the receiving party's use of information if: (i) at the time of disclosure hereunder such information is generally available to the public; (ii) after disclosure hereunder such information becomes generally available to the public, except through breach of this Agreement by the receiving party; (iii) the receiving party can demonstrate such information was in its possession prior to the time of disclosure by the disclosing party; (iv) the information becomes available to the receiving party from a third party which is not legally prohibited from disclosing such information; (v) the receiving party can demonstrate the information was developed by or for it independently without the use of such information; or (vi) disclosure is required under applicable law or regulation or pursuant to a court order or court proceeding, provided that the receiving party promptly notifies the other party of such request or requirement so that such party may seek an appropriate protective order or waive compliance with this Agreement.

## 15. CHOICE OF LAW AND VENUE.

This Agreement will be governed by, and construed and interpreted according to, the substantive laws of the State of Georgia, without reference to conflicts of laws principles, and applicable United States federal laws. The U.S. federal courts and Georgia state courts sitting in the

jurisdiction of Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America, shall have sole and exclusive jurisdiction over any claims or disputes brought by S2Verify or Customer which may arise out of or in connection with this Agreement. S2Verify and Customer each consent to such forum and waive any and all objections to jurisdiction that they may have under the laws of the State of Georgia or the United States.

# 16. CONFLICTS.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of an attachment and this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement will control. Provided, however, that the provisions of this Agreement will be so construed to give effect to the applicable provisions of any attachment to the fullest extent possible.

## **17. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.**

S2Verify shall be and act as an independent contractor (and not as the agent or representative of Customer) in the performance of this Agreement. This Agreement shall not be interpreted or construed as: (i) creating or evidencing any association, joint venture, partnership or franchise between the parties, (ii) imposing any partnership or franchisor obligation or liability on either party or (iii) prohibiting or restricting S2Verify's performance of any services for any third party.

#### **18. AMENDMENT.**

This Agreement may be amended, modified, or supplemented only by a writing that refers explicitly to this Agreement and that is signed by authorized representatives on behalf of each party.

## 19. WAIVER.

No waiver will be implied from conduct or failure to timely enforce any rights. No waiver will be effective unless in writing, signed on behalf of the party against which the waiver is asserted. No waiver of any breach or condition of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any other subsequent breach or condition, whether of like or different nature.

#### 20. SEVERABILITY.

If any part of this Agreement is found invalid or unenforceable, that part will be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law and the remainder of this Agreement will remain fully in force.

#### 21. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF AGREEMENT.

This Agreement, together with any Service Attachment's or Exhibits, constitutes the final and entire agreement between the parties relating to its subject matter and supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous letters, memoranda, representations, discussions, negotiations, understandings and agreements, whether written or oral, with respect to such subject matter, all of the same being merged herein. The Service Fees Attachment and Exhibits (if any) attached hereto are incorporated herein by reference.

# 22. ASSIGNMENT.

S2Verify may without the consent of Customer sell, transfer, or assign this Agreement in the event of a sale of substantially all of its assets or the change of control of its equity. Customer may not sell, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement to any other person, without the express written consent of S2Verify.

# 23. COUNTERPARTS.

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute a single instrument.

# 24. HEADINGS.

The descriptive headings contained herein are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement through their duly authorized representatives effective as of the Effective Date.

Customer:	S2 Verify, L	LC.
By:	By:	
Name:	Name:	
Title:	<b>T</b> 1	
Date:	Deter	
Addresses for Notices		
Address:	Address:	3600 Mansell Road
		Suite 275
City:	City:	Alpharetta
State:	State:	Georgia, 30022
ATTN:	ATTN:	Jim Zimbardi
Telephone:	Telephone:	770-649-8282
Email:	Email:	jim.zimbardi@s2verify.com
Fax:	Fax: 9	770-649-8288

# **Table of Exhibits**

Exhibit A: Services

Exhibit X-1: Notice to Users of Consumer Reports: Obligations of Users under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

Exhibit XX-2: Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act



# Exhibit A: Services

"All In" Package	
Past Address History	
Instant National Criminal Search	All alias names
County Criminal/Other Public Records	All previous counties of residence / 7 years All alias names
"All In" Package w/ Monitoring	
Past Address History	
Instant National Criminal Search	All alias names
County Criminal/Other Public Records	All previous counties of residence / 7 years All alias names
Monthly Monitoring	Rescreen automatically processed monthly until cancelled Verification of record matches carries additional fee
"All In + Wheels" Package	
Past Address History	
Instant National Criminal Search	All alias names
County Criminal/Other Public Records Search	All previous counties of residence / 7 years All alias names
MVR Search	
"All In + Wheels" Package w/ Monitoring	
Past Address History	
Instant National Criminal Search	All alias names
County Criminal/Other Public Records Search	All previous counties of residence / 7 years All alias names
MVR Search	
Monthly Monitoring	Rescreen automatically processed monthly until cancelled Verification of record matches carries additional fee



Exhibit X-1: Notice to Users of Consumer Reports: Obligations of Users under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

All users of consumer reports must comply with all applicable regulations. Information about applicable regulations currently in effect can be found at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website, <u>www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore</u>.

# NOTICE TO USERS OF CONSUMER REPORTS: OBLIGATIONS OF USERS UNDER THE FCRA

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), 15 U.S.C. §1681-1681y, requires that this notice be provided to inform users of consumer reports of their legal obligations. State law may impose additional requirements. The text of the FCRA is set forth in full at the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection's website at <u>www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore</u>. At the end of this document is a list of United States Code citations for the FCRA. Other information about user duties is also available at the Bureau's website. Users must consult the relevant provisions of the FCRA for details about their obligations under the FCRA.

The first section of this summary sets forth the responsibilities imposed by the FCRA on all users of consumer reports. The subsequent sections discuss the duties of users of reports that contain specific types of information, or that are used for certain purposes, and the legal consequences of violations. If you are a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency (CRA), you have additional obligations and will receive a separate notice from the CRA describing your duties as a furnisher.

# I. OBLIGATIONS OF ALL USERS OF CONSUMER REPORTS

# A. Users Must Have a Permissible Purpose

Congress has limited the use of consumer reports to protect consumers' privacy. All users must have a permissible purpose under the FCRA to obtain a consumer report. Section 604 contains a list of the permissible purposes under the law. These are:

- As ordered by a court or a federal grand jury subpoena. Section 604(a)(1)
- As instructed by the consumer in writing. Section 604(a)(2)

- For the extension of credit as a result of an application from a consumer, or the review or collection of a consumer's account. <u>Section 604(a)(3)(A)</u>
- For employment purposes, including hiring and promotion decisions, where the consumer has given written permission. <u>Sections 604(a)(3)(B) and 604(b)</u>
- For the underwriting of insurance as a result of an application from a consumer. <u>Section</u> <u>604(a)(3)(C)</u>
- When there is a legitimate business need, in connection with a business transaction that is <u>initiated</u> by the consumer. <u>Section 604(a)(3)(F)(i)</u>
- To review a consumer's account to determine whether the consumer continues to meet the terms of the account. Section 604(a)(3)(F)(ii)
- To determine a consumer's eligibility for a license or other benefit granted by a governmental instrumentality required by law to consider an applicant's financial responsibility or status. Section 604(a)(3)(D)
- For use by a potential investor or servicer, or current insurer, in a valuation or assessment of the credit or prepayment risks associated with an existing credit obligation. <u>Section</u> <u>604(a)(3)(E)</u>
- For use by state and local officials in connection with the determination of child support payments, or modifications and enforcement thereof. Sections 604(a)(4) and 604(a)(5)

In addition, creditors and insurers may obtain certain consumer report information for the purpose of making "prescreened" unsolicited offers of credit or insurance. <u>Section 604(c)</u>. The particular obligations of users of "prescreened" information are described in Section VII below.

# B. Users Must Provide Certifications

Section 604(f) prohibits any person from obtaining a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency (CRA) unless the person has certified to the CRA the permissible purpose(s) for which the report is being obtained and certifies that the report will not be used for any other purpose.

# C. Users Must Notify Consumers When Adverse Actions Are Taken

The term "adverse action" is defined very broadly by Section 603. "Adverse actions" include all business, credit, and employment actions affecting consumers that can be considered to have a negative impact as defined by Section 603(k) of the FCRA – such as denying or canceling credit or insurance, or denying employment or promotion. No adverse action occurs in a credit transaction where the creditor makes a counteroffer that is accepted by the consumer.

# 1. Adverse Actions Based on Information Obtained From a CRA

If a user takes any type of adverse action as defined by the FCRA that is based at least in part on information contained in a consumer report, Section 615(a) requires the user to notify the consumer. The notification may be done in writing, orally, or by electronic means. It must include the following:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the CRA (including a toll-free telephone number, if it is a nationwide CRA) that provided the report.
- A statement that the CRA did not make the adverse decision and is not able to explain why the decision was made.
- A statement setting forth the consumer's right to obtain a free disclosure of the consumer's file from the CRA if the consumer makes a request within 60 days.
- A statement setting forth the consumer's right to dispute directly with the CRA the accuracy or completeness of any information provided by the CRA.

# 2. Adverse Actions Based on Information Obtained From Third Parties Who Are Not Consumer Reporting Agencies

If a person denies (or increases the charge for) credit for personal, family, or household purposes based either wholly or partly upon information from a person other than a CRA, and the information is the type of consumer information covered by the FCRA, Section 615(b)(1) requires that the user clearly and accurately disclose to the consumer his or her right to be told the nature of the information that was relied upon if the consumer makes a written request within 60 days of notification. The user must provide the disclosure within a reasonable period of time

following the consumer's written request.

# 3. Adverse Actions Based on Information Obtained From Affiliates

If a person takes an adverse action involving insurance, employment, or a credit transaction initiated by the consumer, based on information of the type covered by the FCRA, and this information was obtained from an entity affiliated with the user of the information by common ownership or control, Section 615(b)(2) requires the user to notify the consumer of the adverse action. The notice must inform the consumer that he or she may obtain a disclosure of the information relied upon by making a written request within 60 days of receiving the adverse action notice. If the consumer makes such a request, the user must disclose the nature of the information not later than 30 days after receiving the request. If consumer report information is shared among affiliates and then used for an adverse action, the user must make an adverse action disclosure as set forth in I.C.1 above.

## D. Users Have Obligations When Fraud and Active Duty Military Alerts are in Files

When a consumer has placed a fraud alert, including one relating to identify theft, or an active duty military alert with a nationwide consumer reporting agency as defined in Section 603(p) and resellers, Section 605A(h) imposes limitations on users of reports obtained from the consumer reporting agency in certain circumstances, including the establishment of a new credit plan and the issuance of additional credit cards. For initial fraud alerts and active duty alerts, the user must have reasonable policies and procedures in place to form a belief that the user knows the identity of the applicant or contact the consumer at a telephone number specified by the consumer; in the case of extended fraud alerts, the user must contact the consumer in accordance with the contact information provided in the consumer's alert.

## E. Users Have Obligations When Notified of an Address Discrepancy

Section 605(h) requires nationwide CRAs, as defined in Section 603(p), to notify users that request reports when the address for a consumer provided by the user in requesting the report is substantially different from the addresses in the consumer's file. When this occurs, users must comply with regulations specifying the procedures to be followed. Federal regulations are available at www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.

# F. Users Have Obligations When Disposing of Records

Section 628 requires that all users of consumer report information have in place procedures to properly dispose of records containing this information. Federal regulations have been issued that cover disposal.

# **II. CREDITORS MUST MAKE ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES**

If a person uses a consumer report in connection with an application for, or a grant, extension, or provision of, credit to a consumer on material terms that are materially less favorable than the most favorable terms available to a substantial proportion of consumers from or through that person, based in whole or in part on a consumer report, the person must provide a risk-based

pricing notice to the consumer in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Section 609(g) requires a disclosure by all persons that make or arrange loans secured by residential real property (one to four units) and that use credit scores. These persons must provide credit scores and other information about credit scores to applicants, including the disclosure set forth in Section 609(g)(1)(D) ("Notice to the Home Loan Applicant").

# **III.OBLIGATIONS OF USERS WHEN CONSUMER REPORTS ARE OBTAINED FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES**

## A. Employment Other Than in the Trucking Industry

If the information from a CRA is used for employment purposes, the user has specific duties, which are set forth in Section 604(b) of the FCRA. The user must:

- Make a clear and conspicuous written disclosure to the consumer before the report is obtained, in a document that consists solely of the disclosure, that a consumer report may be obtained.
- Obtain from the consumer prior written authorization. Authorization to access reports during the term of employment may be obtained at the time of employment.
- Certify to the CRA that the above steps have been followed, that the information being obtained will not be used in violation of any federal or state equal opportunity law or regulation, and that, if any adverse action is to be taken based on the consumer report, a copy of the report and a summary of the consumer's rights will be provided to the consumer
- **Before** taking an adverse action, the user must provide a copy of the report to the consumer as well as the summary of consumer's rights. (The user should receive this summary from the CRA.) A Section 615(a) adverse action notice should be sent after the adverse action is taken

An adverse action notice also is required in employment situations if credit information (other than transactions and experience data) obtained from an affiliate is used to deny employment. Section 615(b)(2)

The procedures for investigative consumer reports and employee misconduct investigations are set forth below.

#### B. Employment in the Trucking Industry

Special rules apply for truck drivers where the only interaction between the consumer and the potential employer is by mail, telephone, or computer. In this case, the consumer may provide consent orally or electronically, and an adverse action may be made orally, in writing, or electronically. The consumer may obtain a copy of any report relied upon by the trucking company by contacting the company.

## **IV. OBLIGATIONS WHEN INVESTIGATIVE CONSUMER REPORTS ARE USED**

Investigative consumer reports are a special type of consumer report in which information about a consumer's character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living is obtained through personal interviews by an entity or person that is a consumer reporting agency. Consumers who are the subjects of such reports are given special rights under the FCRA. If a user intends to obtain an investigative consumer report, Section 606 requires the following:

- The user must disclose to the consumer that an investigative consumer report may be obtained. This must be done in a written disclosure that is mailed, or otherwise delivered, to the consumer at some time before or not later than three days after the date on which the report was first requested. The disclosure must include a statement informing the consumer of his or her right to request additional disclosures of the nature and scope of the investigation as described below, and the summary of consumer rights required by Section 609 of the FCRA. (The summary of consumer rights will be provided by the CRA that conducts the investigation.)
- The user must certify to the CRA that the disclosures set forth above have been made and that the user will make the disclosure described below.
- Upon the written request of a consumer made within a reasonable period of time after the disclosures required above, the user must make a complete disclosure of the nature and scope of the investigation. This must be made in a written statement that is mailed or otherwise delivered, to the consumer no later than five days after the date on which the request was received from the consumer or the report was first requested, whichever is later in time.

# V. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR EMPLOYEE INVESTIGATIONS

Section 603(x) provides special procedures for investigations of suspected misconduct by an employee or for compliance with Federal, state or local laws and regulations or the rules of a self-regulatory organization, and compliance with written policies of the employer. These investigations are not treated as consumer reports so long as the employer or its agent complies with the procedures set forth in Section 603(x), and a summary describing the nature and scope of the inquiry is made to the employee if an adverse action is taken based on the investigation.

# VI. OBLIGATIONS OF USERS OF MEDICAL INFORMATION

Section 604(g) limits the use of medical information obtained from consumer reporting agencies (other than payment information that appears in a coded form that does not identify the medical provider). If the information is to be used for an insurance transaction, the consumer must give consent to the user of the report or the information must be coded. If the report is to be used for employment purposes – or in connection with a credit transaction (except as provided in regulations issued by the banking and credit union regulators) – the consumer must provide specific written consent and the medical information must be relevant. Any user who receives

medical information shall not disclose the information to any other person (except where necessary to carry out the purpose for which the information was disclosed, or a permitted by statute, regulation, or order).

# VII. OBLIGATIONS OF USERS OF "PRESCREENED" LISTS

The FCRA permits creditors and insurers to obtain limited consumer report information for use in connection with unsolicited offers of credit or insurance under certain circumstances. <u>Sections 603(1), 604(c), 604(e), and 615(d)</u>. This practice is known as "prescreening" and typically involves obtaining a list of consumers from a CRA who meet certain pre-established criteria. If any person intends to use prescreened lists, that person must (1) before the offer is made, establish the criteria that will be relied upon to make the offer and grant credit or insurance, and (2) maintain such criteria on file for a three-year period beginning on the date on which the offer is made to each consumer. In addition, any user must provide with each written solicitation a clear and conspicuous statement that:

- Information contained in a consumer's CRA file was used in connection with the transaction.
- The consumer received the offer because he or she satisfied the criteria for credit worthiness or insurability used to screen for the offer.
- Credit or insurance may not be extended if, after the consumer responds, it is determined that the consumer does not meet the criteria used for screening or any applicable criteria bearing on credit worthiness or insurability, or the consumer does not furnish required collateral.
- The consumer may prohibit the use of information in his or her file in connection with future prescreened offers of credit or insurance by contacting the notification system established by the CRA that provided the report. The statement must include the address and toll-free telephone number of the appropriate notification system.

In addition, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has established the format, type size, and manner of the disclosure required by Section 615(d), with which users must comply. The relevant regulation is 12 CFR 1022.54.

# VIII. OBLIGATIONS OF RESELLERS

# A. Disclosure and Certification Requirements

Section 607(e) requires any person who obtains a consumer report for resale to take the following steps:

- Disclose the identity of the end-user to the source CRA.
- Identify to the source CRA each permissible purpose for which the report will be furnished to the end-user.
- Establish and follow reasonable procedures to ensure that reports are resold only for

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permissible purposes, including procedures to obtain:

- (1) the identify of all end-users;
- (2) certifications from all users of each purpose for which reports will be used; and
- (3) certifications that reports will not be used for any purpose other than the purpose(s) specified to the reseller. Resellers must make reasonable efforts to verify this information before selling the report.

# B. Reinvestigations by Resellers

Under Section 611(f), if a consumer disputes the accuracy or completeness of information in a report prepared by a reseller, the reseller must determine whether this is a result of an action or omission on its part and, if so, correct or delete the information. If not, the reseller must send the dispute to the source CRA for reinvestigation. When any CRA notifies the reseller of the results of an investigation, the reseller must immediately convey the information to the consumer.

# C. Fraud Alerts and Resellers

Section 605A(f) requires resellers who receive fraud alerts or active duty alerts from another consumer reporting agency to include these in their reports.

# IX. LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE FCRA

Failure to comply with the FCRA can result in state government or federal government enforcement actions, as well as private lawsuits. <u>Sections 616, 617, and 621</u>. In addition, any person who knowingly and willfully obtains a consumer report under false pretenses may face criminal prosecution. <u>Section 619</u>.

The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection's website, www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore, has more information about the FCRA, including publications for businesses and the full text of the FCRA.

# Citations for FCRA sections in the U.S. Code, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.:

Section 602	15 U.S.C. 1681
Section 603	15 U.S.C. 1681a
Section 604	15 U.S.C. 1681b
Section 605	15 U.S.C. 1681c
Section 605A	15 U.S.C. 1681c-A
Section 605B	15 U.S.C. 1681c-B
Section 606	15 U.S.C. 1681d
Section 607	15 U.S.C. 1681e
Section 608	15 U.S.C. 1681f

Section 609	15 U.S.C. 1681g
Section 610	15 U.S.C. 1681h
Section 611	15 U.S.C. 1681i
Section 612	15 U.S.C. 1681j
Section 613	15 U.S.C. 1681k
Section 614	15 U.S.C. 16811
Section 615	15 U.S.C. 1681m
Section 616	15 U.S.C. 1681n
Section 617	15 U.S.C. 16810
Section 618	15 U.S.C. 1681p
Section 619	15 U.S.C. 1681q
Section 620	15 U.S.C. 1681r
Section 621	15 U.S.C. 1681s
Section 622	15 U.S.C. 1681s-1
Section 623	15 U.S.C. 1681s-2
Section 624	15 U.S.C. 1681t
Section 625	15 U.S.C. 1681u
Section 626	15 U.S.C. 1681v
Section 627	15 U.S.C. 1681w
Section 628	15 U.S.C. 1681x
Section 629	15U.S.C.1681y

# Exhibit XX-2: A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

Para información en español, visite <u>www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore\_</u>o escribe a la Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

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

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Here is a summary of your major rights under FCRA. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore\_or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

- You must be told if information in your file has been used against you. Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment or to take another adverse action against you must tell you, and must give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information.
- You have the right to know what is in your file. You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your "file disclosure"). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases, the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if:
  - a person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report;
  - you are the victim of identity theft and place a fraud alert in your file;
  - your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud;
  - you are on public assistance;
  - you are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days.

In addition, all consumers are entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See <u>www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore</u> for additional information.

• You have the right to ask for a credit score. Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.

- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate, and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See\_<a href="http://www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore">www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore</a> for an explanation of dispute procedures.
- Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. Inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.
- Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information. In most cases, a consumer reporting agency may not report negative information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.
- Access to your file is limited. A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.
- You may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report. Unsolicited "prescreened" offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address form the lists these offers are based on. You may opt out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).
- The following FCRA right applies with respect to nationwide consumer reporting agencies:

# CONSUMERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A SECURITY FREEZE

You have a right to place a "security freeze" on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on your credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting 7 years.

A security freeze does not apply to a person or entity, or its affiliates, or collection agencies acting on behalf of the person or entity, with which you have an existing account that requests information in your credit report for the purposes of reviewing or collecting the account. Reviewing the account includes activities related to account maintenance, monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements.

- You may seek damages from violators. If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.
- Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights. For more information, visit <u>www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.</u>

States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General. For information about your federal rights, contact:

<b>TYPE OF BUSINESS:</b>	CONTACT:	
1.a. Banks, savings associations, and credit unions with total assets of over \$10 billion and their affiliates	a. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 1700 G Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20552	
b. Such affiliates that are not banks, savings associations, or credit unions also should list, in addition to the CFPB:	<ul> <li>b. Federal Trade Commission</li> <li>Consumer Response Center</li> <li>600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.</li> <li>Washington, DC 20580</li> <li>(877) 382-4357</li> </ul>	
<ul><li>2. To the extent not included in item 1 above:</li><li>a. National banks, federal savings associations, and federal branches and federal agencies of foreign banks</li></ul>	a. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Customer Assistance Group 1301 McKinney Street, Suite 3450 Houston, TX 77010-9050	
b. State member banks, branches and agencies of foreign banks (other than federal branches, federal agencies, and Insured State Branches of Foreign Banks), commercial lending companies owned or controlled by foreign banks, and organizations operating under section 25 or 25A of the Federal Reserve Act.	b. Federal Reserve Consumer Help Center P.O. Box 1200 Minneapolis, MN 55480	
c. Nonmember Insured Banks, Insured State Branches of Foreign Banks, and insured state savings associations	c. FDIC Consumer Response Center 1100 Walnut Street, Box #11 Kansas City, MO 64106	
d. Federal Credit Unions	d. National Credit Union Administration Office of Consumer Financial Protection (OCFP) Division of Consumer Compliance Policy and Outreach 1775 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314	
3. Air carriers	Asst. General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement & Proceedings Aviation Consumer Protection Division Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590	
4. Creditors Subject to the Surface Transportation Board	Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board Department of Transportation 395 E Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20423	
5. Creditors Subject to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921	Nearest Packers and Stockyards Administration area supervisor	
6. Small Business Investment Companies	Associate Deputy Administrator for Capital Access United States Small Business Administration 409 Third Street, S.W., Suite 8200 Washington, DC 20416	
7. Brokers and Dealers	Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549	
8. Federal Land Banks, Federal Land Bank Associations, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, and Production Credit Associations	Farm Credit Administration 1501 Farm Credit Drive McLean, VA 22102-5090	
9. Retailers, Finance Companies, and All Other Creditors Not isted Above	Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20580 (877) 382-4357	