

# Credit Repair Scams in Georgia

YOUR CREDIT | YOUR SECURITY | YOUR FINANCES



**GEORGIA  
2nd**

in the country in total fraud reports. Total fraud losses amounted to \$18.6 million in 2017.

*Consumer Sentinel Network  
Data Book, 2017*

**GEORGIA  
9th**

in the country in total identity theft reports. 12,548 reports filed in 2017.

## What are Credit Repair Scams?

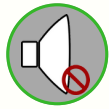
Credit repair scams involve false promises made by disreputable actors that seek to charge you large fees. These scammers extract your sensitive information, such as your social security number, to commit fraud and identity theft.

## Signs of a Credit Repair Scam



### Requires Service Payment Up Front

The scammer demands large sums of money as service fees before moving forward with anything.



### Non-Disclosure of Free Options

The scammer withholds information about free resources available for consumers like you.



### Encourages False Information

The scammer suggests you get new credit by using someone else's SSN or by applying for an EID.



### Promises to Remove Negative Information

The scammer promises to remove negative credit information even if that information is accurate. No one can do this!



### Restricts Contact with Credit Bureaus

The scammer tells you not to contact any of the nationwide credit reporting bureaus directly.



### Disputes Accurate Information on Report

The scammer advises you to dispute all the information in your credit report, regardless of the accuracy of the information.

## Are You a Victim of Credit Repair Scam?

Credit repair scams are prevalent across the country, especially in Georgia. Many people in need of credit help fall victim to the promises made by these scammers and find themselves trapped in debt as a result. **If you or anyone you know have been the victim of credit repair scam, you should report it to the Georgia Department of Law's Consumer Protection Division at 800-869-1123.**

## How to Improve Your Credit the Right Way?

- The only one who can fix your credit is you, and it takes time.
- Contact your creditors when you realize you are unable to make your payments.
- If you need help preparing a budget and working out a payment plan, contact your local credit counseling service. **To locate a credit counseling service near you, visit the National Foundation for Credit Counseling website or call 800-388-2227.**



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## Additional Tips

### Monitor Your Credit Report

**Check your credit report as often as possible.**

You can obtain two credit reports per year from each of the three major nationwide credit reporting bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax). Visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) to obtain a credit report from each bureau. Contact the bureaus directly to obtain your additional credit report.

Rather than requesting all of your credit reports at once, consider staggering your requests so that you can monitor your credit throughout the year.

### Disputing Inaccurate or Incomplete Information in Your Credit Report:

- About one out of every four credit reports contains errors. You may dispute, at no charge, any items you believe are inaccurate.
- Each credit bureau usually has its own method for filing a dispute, so contact them directly for more information.
- Tell the credit bureau, in writing, what information you think is inaccurate.
- Include your credit report and copies, not originals, of other materials that support your position.
- Send your letter by certified mail with “return receipt requested” to ensure the letter is delivered. Keep your post office receipt.
- Keep copies of everything you send.
- Credit reporting bureaus must investigate the disputed items. The process usually takes fewer than 30 days.
- What to expect when the investigation is complete:
  - The results of the investigation, in writing, from the credit bureau.
  - A free copy of your credit report, if the report is changed.
- Contact our consumer hotline at (866) 33-WATCH if you need more guidance.

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