

Credit Freezes

Putting a credit freeze on an account is now free to anyone who wishes to do so. This is due to Senate Bill S.2155 – Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act taking effect on September 21, 2018. For additional information on credit freezes and links to freeze accounts, see <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0497-credit-freeze-faqs#what>

A credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, is a free feature which allows an individual to restrict access to their credit report. By placing a freeze on one's account, it prevents creditors from viewing their information. This in turn prevents new lines of credit from being opened in the individual's name as creditors do not often extend credit without being able to view a credit report. It does not affect an individual's credit score, nor does it prevent them from receiving their free annual credit report. It still allows individuals to use their current lines of open credit (car loan, credit cards, home loan, etc.). If an individual wants to take additional credit out, such as opening a new credit card or bank account, they will need to temporarily remove the freeze from their accounts.

It is potentially still possible to have a new line of credit taken out in your name with a freeze on your account. However, placing a freeze makes it much more difficult to do so. To help protect personal information, it is highly recommended that individuals consider putting credit freezes on their accounts. It is also a good idea to put freezes on accounts for any minors to keep their credit clear for when they turn 18 and begin using it. For increased protection, freezes need to be placed on each of the nationwide credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion).

Any additional questions or concerns can be sent to the Michigan Cyber Command Center (MC3) at mc3@michigan.gov or at 1-877-MI-CYBER

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports?

Contact each of the nationwide credit bureaus:

- **Equifax**
[Equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services)
800-685-1111
- **Experian**
[Experian.com/help](https://www.experian.com/help)
888-EXPERIAN (888-397-3742)
- **Transunion**
[TransUnion.com/credit-help](https://www.transunion.com/credit-help)
888-909-8872