

7 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR CREDIT

Sounds simple, right? There was a time in our recent history our clients had some flexibility on bad credit, poor credit because of the financial meltdown we experienced. Some of our clients had a zero tolerance for hiring people with bad credit, others thought it was a sign of the times. Fast forward to the present, with home values soaring, incentive-comp on the rise again our clients are now taking a new look at credit standards for their new employees. Is it new, or have we reached a point in the economy we can get back to the core principles of being accountable? Here are 7 steps for a newly minted high school or college grad to take to heart to protect their career and financial future. Before we get there, let's understand why it is important.

Poor credit, bad credit, charge-off, delinquency, slow pay all add up to a costly mistake over time. Potential employers take this into account when considering applicants in many industries, much like the rise of more drug testing for pre-employment screening. It starts with Education, we need to educate our high school and college students about how finance works, and how it impacts our lives in the short and long term. News-flash, nothing is free! A bad credit score can add hundreds if not thousands in additional cost for monthly bills with credit cards, installment loans and yes it also impacts car insurance.

Our clients pull credit reports, and they take a close look at them. It speaks to more than just "Do you pay your bills"? It speaks to core values, ethics, integrity, accountability and so on. Here are our 7 Tips:

- Educate yourself on how credit works, how to build it and how to leverage it for long term success
- SAVE, SAVE, SAVE (establish a savings account with auto deposit straight into the account)
- Build a face to face relationship with your community bank or credit union
- Add a block on your credit report to prevent unauthorized use (requires all new credit inquiries to be verified)
- Know your Credit Report, really know it to make sure it is accurate
- Be proactive if there is a past credit problem
- Explain it, do not make excuses be able to explain the situation and the resolution!!!

For more Career Management tips contact us today for a confidential career management discussion.