

## Office for Financial Success – Financial Tip of the Week

A service of the Personal Financial Planning Department  
College of Human Environmental Sciences  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
**(1/12/2006)**

Some important things have occurred for the OFS during the past couple weeks that I wanted to pass along:

- (1) We have received approval from the US Trustees Office to provide bankruptcy counseling – see our website for more info.
- (2) We have a new web address! A change I'm very pleased to see. You don't have to worry – if you have the old site bookmarked, the old address will continue to work. The new address is much simpler, much more intuitive, and thus easier to share with others. The address:  
<http://financialsuccess.missouri.edu>

Hopefully by now, the idea of a consumer being able to obtain a copy of their credit report annually for free isn't a foreign one ([www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index](http://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index)). Did you also know that FACTA (the same legislation that allowed you to get the free credit reports) also enables consumers to obtain free "specialty reports." These are reports that relate to such things as medical records or payments, check writing history, residential or tenant history, and insurance claims [to name a few]. Specialty reports became available to all consumers on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. FTC regulations require companies that prepare reports on consumers for employment, insurance claims, rental, check writing, and medical records history, as a minimum establish a toll free telephone number for ordering the free file disclosures. Many companies also provide information for ordering the file online. As is the case with credit reports, you are eligible for one report per year (i.e., one insurance report, one tenancy report, etc.).

Not everyone has a need to obtain each specialty report. Consumers should order a specialty report before shopping for new insurance, opening a new checking account, or renting [or after being turned down when applying for any of the following]. Consumers who find errors in a specialty report have the same rights to dispute as with errors found in a credit report.

### **Examples of available specialty reports and how to order them:**

*Keep in mind these are "for profit" businesses – they provide the free specialty report to be in compliance with government regulations, but other items/products on their website are "for sale" – you are under no obligation to order anything to get your free specialty reports ...*

Insurance Underwriting History - Life, Health, Disability  
([http://www.mib.com/html/request\\_your\\_record.html](http://www.mib.com/html/request_your_record.html))

Tenancy Consumer File – (<http://www.udregistry.com>)

Property & Auto Claims History – (C.L.U.E. Report) – ([www.choicetrust.com](http://www.choicetrust.com))

- To request a copy of your Employment History, call 1-866-312-8075
- To request a copy of your Tenant History, call 1-877-448-5732
- To request a copy of your Check Writing History, call 1-800-428-9623

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A primary objective of the MU Office for Financial Success is to provide sound, non-biased information related to your financial life. Financial products are neither sold nor promoted. Our service is free to MU students and an inexpensive educational option for non-students. Visit us (<http://financialsuccess.missouri.edu>) to learn more and/or to schedule an appointment.

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Interested in a career in Financial Counseling or Financial Planning?  
Interested in becoming involved with the Office for Financial Success?

Contact me: [olesonm@missouri.edu](mailto:olesonm@missouri.edu)

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SUBSCRIBE TO: [financialsuccess@missouri.edu](mailto:financialsuccess@missouri.edu)
  - You may unsubscribe at any time by sending an e-mail (see contact info below) with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.
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