Field guide · Report anatomy

Anatomy of a credit report.
Five sections, checked in order.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Shown as redaction bars only.

BAYSTATE BANK CARD SERVICES

Status: Charge-off Balance: $1,463
Remarks: Sold to another lender

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2021	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
2022	OK	OK	OK	30	60	90	120	150	180	CO	CO	CO

24-MO · FIRST LATE 04/2022 · CO FROM 10/2022

MERIDIAN RECOVERY GROUP Account #: 74XX-XXXX

Original creditor:	BAYSTATE BANK CARD SERVICES
Account type:	Collection
Date opened:	03/2024
Account status:	OPEN
Balance:	$1,912
Original amount:	$1,463
Date of first delinquency:	03/2024
Est. month/year item removed:	09/2031
Remarks:	Placed for collection

PUBLIC RECORDS

BANKRUPTCY ONLY · CHAPTER / FILED / DISPOSITION

INQUIRIES

HARD: YOU APPLIED · SOFT: NOT SCORED

1 Personal information

Names, addresses, birth date, partial SSN, phone numbers and employers. Not scored directly, but where identity mix-ups and fraud first show.

Check every name variant, every address, and any note reading “deceased.”

2 Tradelines

Each account's status, balance, limit and the month-by-month payment grid. Payment history is 35% of a FICO score; balances and limits feed amounts owed, another 30%.

Check: is it yours? Status, balance and limit, every grid month, remarks.

3 Collections

Accounts sold or assigned to collectors: original creditor, balance, and the date of first delinquency (DOFD). The DOFD, not the collector's open date, controls when the item must leave.

Check the drop-off date sits about 7 years (plus up to 180 days) after the DOFD you can document.

4 Public records

Today the only public record that belongs on a credit report is a bankruptcy. Chapter 7 can stay 10 years from filing; Chapter 13, 7 years.

A judgment or lien here is, by itself, a red flag.

5 Inquiries

Hard inquiries come from applying for credit; they stay 2 years and affect FICO scores for roughly 12 months. Soft inquiries never touch your score.

Check every hard inquiry against your own applications.



What the tradelines feed: FICO score weights

- Payment history 35%
- Amounts owed 30%
- Length of history 15%
- New credit 10%
- Mix 10%

Source: myFICO

Payment grid codes

- OK Current
- 30 30 days late
- 60 60 days late
- 90+ 90+ days late
- CO Charge-off / collection

Educational information, not legal or financial advice. Synthetic example data. You review your own reports and send any disputes yourself.