

## **Authorization and Release to Obtain/Disclose Personal Credit Information**

At Greater Insurance Service ("GIS") we are dedicated to providing you with insurance coverage that not only meets your insurance needs but at the best price we can obtain. In order to accomplish this goal, it is necessary for GIS to periodically disclose some of the information you have provided to us (or that we have collected from other sources) to insurance companies and insurance support organizations to facilitate current and future rate comparisons with various insurance companies. These rate comparisons allow us to continually monitor your insurance needs and offer you the best rates not only today but also in the future.

As part of this process, it may also be necessary that we obtain an insurance credit score to assist GIS, the various insurance companies, and support organizations in properly evaluating an individual's risk profile. An insurance credit score is a numerical point system based on select credit report characteristics. There is no direct relationship to financial credit scores used in lending decisions, as insurance scores are not intended to measure creditworthiness, but rather to predict risk. Insurance companies use insurance scores for underwriting decisions, and to partially determine charges for premiums.

Some insurance companies believe there is direct statistical relationship between financial stability and losses. They believe that as a group, consumers who show more financial responsibility have fewer and less costly losses, and therefore, should pay less for their insurance. Conversely, they believe that as a group, consumers who show less financial responsibility have more and costlier losses, and therefore, should pay more for their insurance.

Insurance companies that have developed credit scoring models use several factors to determine credit scores. Each factor is assigned a weighted number that, when applied to your specific credit information and added together, equals your three-digit credit score ranging from 0-999, depending on the insurance company and the credit scoring model used. Generally, the higher the number, the more financially responsible the consumer.

Following is a list of the more common credit factors used in determining credit scores:

- Major negative items – bankruptcy, collections, foreclosures, liens, charge-offs, etc.
- Past payment history – number and frequency of late payments; days elapsed between due date and late payment dates.
- Length of credit history – amount of time you have been in the credit system.

- Homeownership – whether you rent or own a home
- Inquiries for credit – number of times you’ve recently applied for new accounts, including mortgage loans, utility accounts, credit card accounts, etc.
- Number of credit lines open – number of major credit cards, department store credit cards, etc.
- Type of credit in use – major credit cards, store credit cards, finance company loans, etc.
- Outstanding debt – how much you owe compared to how much credit is available to you.

Most consumer groups suggest you get a copy of your credit report once a year and review it for errors, even if you have not been denied credit or insurance.

The three national credit bureaus are:

1. Equifax (<http://www.credit.equifax.com>) 1-800-685-1111
1. Experian (<http://www.experian.com>) 1-888-397-3742
2. Trans Union (<http://www.transunion.com>) 1-800-888-4213

By signing below, the undersigned hereby authorizes Greater Insurance Service, and its employees and agents, to disclose information provided to Greater Insurance Service or collected from other sources (e.g., motor vehicle records, claims information credit reports) to other insurers and insurance support organizations to verify the information and evaluate my insurance risk/needs. I further authorize Greater Insurance Service to collect information from other insurers and insurance support organization to verify information and evaluate my insurance risk/needs, which may include obtaining an insurance credit score from any consumer reporting agency and/or bureau. I understand this information may be personal or privileged information. I also understand that I am not obligated to provide this authorization but am voluntarily authorizing Greater Insurance Service to obtain and/or disclose this information so that they can not only meet my current insurance needs but continue to monitor my insurance needs into the future.

I understand this authorization is valid for the types of reports described above until I have withdrawn this authorization in writing or 60 days after my coverage through Greater Insurance Service has expired. I do this to facilitate current and future rate comparisons with other insurance carriers represented by Greater Insurance Service.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_