

The City of Ottawa, Illinois and its Board of Fire and Police Commissioners are seeking applications for qualified lateral transfer Patrol Officers.

Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Successfully completed Basic Police Operations at a police training academy.
2. Is certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.
3. Has been previously employed as a full time sworn Law Enforcement Officer by any municipal, county, university or state law enforcement agency and has been with their respective law enforcement agency within the State for at least 2 years
4. Has completed their probationary period with their current employer.
5. Is in good standing with the police department in which the applicant serves.
6. Possess the knowledge, skills, abilities, and level of experience required pursuant to the call for qualified lateral transfer applicants; and
7. Shall be under the age of 35 years. The age limitation is subject to the exceptions set forth in 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6(a) regarding veterans who served on active military duty and 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6(d) regarding any policeman previously employed in any municipality, any person who has served as an auxiliary police officer under Section 3.1-30-20 for at least 5 years and is under 40 years of age, any person who has served as a deputy under Section 3-6008 of the Counties Code, or any person who has served as a sworn officer as a member of the Illinois State Police.
8. Must reside within 40 miles from the City of Ottawa Corporate limits.

Interested applicants will participate in a hiring process consisting of:

- a) Completion of an employment application and related documents.
- b) A pre-screening of the applicants by Board for accuracy and completeness.
- c) A background character investigation.
- d) An oral interview by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners (**Oral interviews will be scheduled as applications are received**).
- e) Post-offer examinations approved by the Board include a medical examination by a licensed medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy, drug screening, and psychological examination.

Persons appearing on the Lateral Transfer Final Eligibility Register shall take on a rank as candidates in the order of their relative excellence as determined by members of the board of fire and police commissioners. Generally, the consideration of relative excellence shall be based on the following qualifications, in no particular order:

- Law enforcement experience.
- Law enforcement training beyond the Basic Law Enforcement Course including training and experience in specialty law enforcement functions.
- Result of oral interview.
- Result of background investigation.

The Lateral Transfer Final Eligibility Register does not expire; instead, applicant's names shall be stricken from the Register after two years from the date of original application.

The Collective Bargaining provides that an officer appointed from the Lateral Transfer Final Eligibility Register by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners will be paid pursuant to Appendix A Wage Schedule at the level of pay that is consistent with the officer's completed years of service with his current employer. Appendix A provides as follows:

2 up to 4 years of service–	(\$81,000)
4 up to 6 years of service–	(\$85,000)
6 up to 8 years of service–	(\$87,000)
8 or more years of service–	(\$91,000)

Subsequent "Years of Service" are to be computed as follows:

1. Commencing from the date of employment with the City of Ottawa Police Department to the current fiscal year (May 1), if employee has six (6) months or more of service it shall be counted as one additional year of service in terms of Appendix A Wage Schedule; if less than 6 months, it shall be counted as zero (0) additional years of service in terms of Appendix A Wage Schedule.
2. Once the original computation is made, each fiscal year (May 1) thereafter shall be counted as an additional year of service in terms of Appendix A Wage Schedule.
3. The City of Ottawa as the employer will pay a percentage of the employee's portion of the pension contribution starting at 10 years of service (1/3), at 15 years of service (2/3) and at 20 years 100 % of the employee's portion of the pension contribution.

Maximum Training hours accepted for a Lateral Transfer will be set at 560 hours unless current approved certifications are submitted and approved. Attached is the List of Approved Certifications Hours which can be submitted for approval. Training Hour pay incentives will follow the guidelines as written in the CBA.

An officer appointed from the Lateral Transfer Final Eligibility Register

1. Will start at Year 1 vacation leave (Article 13). Vacation amounts going forward will apply to the years of service as they are earned with the City of Ottawa not the years of total service.
2. Will start with no seniority regardless of years of previous service at another department.
3. Will start with no longevity regardless of the years of previous service at another department.
4. All Lateral hires will have a one (1) year probation period.

Applications are available at www.cityofottawa.org or at City Hall, 301 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350. **Applications must be returned to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 301 West Madison Street, Ottawa, Illinois 61350 no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 15, 2023.** Oral interviews will be scheduled as applications are received.

The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners considers application for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, citizenship status, genetic information or any other legally protected status.



Board of Fire & Police Commissioners

City of Ottawa, Illinois

301 W. Madison Street

Ottawa, IL 61350

Phone: 815-433-0161

www.cityofottawa.org



LATERAL TRANSFER POLICE OFFICER APPLICATION

The City of Ottawa accepts for employment and promotes its employees without regard to perceived or actual race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, physical or mental handicap unrelated to ability to perform the essential job functions or any other status or class protected by federal, state, or local law. The City of Ottawa bases its hiring practices and promotions on merit, experience, education and other qualifications applied to all applicants and in accordance with the principles of equal employment opportunity and as required by any other applicable federal, state, or local law. The City of Ottawa complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons needing accommodations in the recruitment process should notify the Fire and Police Commission through City Hall in advance.

All information contained in or connected with this application will be considered personal and confidential and used only in conjunction with your possible employment by the City of Ottawa.

See the "Required Documents and Application Checklist" on page 3 in this document for complete application instructions. Please furnish us with complete information as outlined in the online application and this supplemental application. For this document, please print in black ink.

Read every question carefully and answer each question accurately. An applicant may be disqualified from further processing if he/she intentionally makes a false statement of a material fact, practices or attempts to practice any deception or fraud in his/her applications, or examination for appointment. Any false statements on this application will be considered sufficient cause for dismissal. Any misrepresentation on this application whether actual or by omission may disqualify you for consideration of employment by the City of Ottawa.

THIS FORM IS A PART OF THE EXAMINATION PROCESS AND MUST BE COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY and ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED UPON SUBMISSION.

See the [Minimum Qualifications](#).

You cannot be considered for the position unless you meet these requirements.

Any questions concerning the employment process should be directed to the City of Ottawa Police Department, 301 W. Lafayette Street, Ottawa, IL 61350; 815-433-2131.

Minimum Requirements and Qualifications

Applicants for lateral transfer Police Officer appointments must meet the following minimum qualifications and requirements at the time of application:

- Have been employed, whether currently or in the past, for at least (2) years as a full-time, non-probationary, sworn law enforcement officer by a Federal, State, County or local law enforcement agency. Applicants must be in good standing with the agency in which they served. (Part-time certification as a law enforcement officer does not meet this requirement.)
- Confirmed status as a sworn municipal police officer, Illinois state trooper or county sheriff's deputy who possess State of Illinois certification by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. (Part-time certification as a law enforcement officer does not meet this requirement.)
- United States citizen.
- Individuals must be at least 23 years old.
- Education – Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Experience – Current status as a Police Officer for two (2) years including the completion of a probationary period and currently in good standing in the Police Department in which the person serves or in laid-off status due to financial restraints only. Also, must possess substantially equivalent skills and abilities as a current City of Ottawa Police Officer.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Must agree to comply with all requirements of the position and have the ability, to pass all examination and training requirements.
- Must reside within 40 miles from the City of Ottawa Corporate limits.

Ability to furnish upon request, a copy of the following, to the extent applicable: a resume; professional licenses; training certificates; documents confirming work experience; birth certificate; high school diploma or GED certificate; transcripts of higher learning; naval or military service board and discharge papers (DD-214/Copy 4); last two employee evaluations; two police reports demonstrating best work and any other employment related material as requested or required.

Selection Process

Each phase of the process is pass / fail and required to proceed to the next.

- Review of application materials.
- Background Investigation
- Interview
- Post-offer examinations, including but not limited to: a psychological assessment; medical examination; and drug screening.

Lateral Eligible Police Officer Candidate Pool

- A lateral transfer Police Officer candidate pool will be established from qualified applicants that submit the required application materials by the application deadline.
- Inclusion in the lateral transfer candidate pool shall be based upon the relative excellence of the applicants.
- The candidate list of lateral transfer Police Officers will be maintained by the Fire and Police Commission
- In the event that the selection process identifies applicants who have certain knowledge, skills and abilities that make those applicants more desirable for the position sought to be filled, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners may choose to appoint those applicants.
- Applications will be valid for two years from the date of acceptance by the City of Ottawa. Such applications for lateral transfer will be accepted as needed and determined by the City of Ottawa.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS & APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following is a checklist to ensure you complete the Application Packet as required and attach and return copies of all required certificates and other documentation. This form should be submitted with the documentation.

- Download the **Employment Application** at www.cityofottawa.org and include **resume** in the application _____

- Submit this completed application packet to the City of Ottawa, Board of Fire and Police Commission, 301 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, Illinois 61350 including the following required documents: _____
 - Photocopy of certificate issued by the State of Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board verifying completion of the Law Enforcement Basic Training Course _____

 - Photocopy of Driver's License _____

 - Disqualification Statement _____

 - Acknowledgement and General Release of All Claims Form _____

 - Authorization to Release Information Form _____

 - Consumer Disclosure and Authorization Form _____

 - Data Collection Form (optional) _____

Applicants submitting incorrect or insufficient proof or incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified from employment consideration.

Internal Use Only

Date and Time Received: _____ Ottawa City Hall Staff Initials: _____

COMPLETE & RETURN THE FOLLOWING PAGES; ATTACH ALL REQUIRED FORMS & DOCUMENTS

Date: _____

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Number & Street City State Zip

Home Phone Number () Cell Phone Number ()

Email address: _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? YES ___ NO ___

Are you eligible to participate in the Police Pension Fund – Municipalities 500,000 and under? YES ___ NO ___

Do you have a valid driver's license? YES ___

Do you meet the minimum requirements for this position? YES ___

Are you certified as a Law Enforcement Officer by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board?

If YES, provide date of certification: _____ YES ___ NO ___

Do you meet the education requirements of this position? YES ___ NO ___

Do you meet the work experience requirements of this position? YES ___ NO ___

Do you hold a valid Firearms Owners ID [FOID] card? YES ___

Number: _____ Expiration: _____

EDUCATION

List any training, skills, professional licenses or certificates that you have that pertain to the position for which you are applying:

PERSONAL HISTORY AND CONVICTION INFORMATION (for background investigation purposes)

You are not obligated to disclose criminal history records that have been sealed, impounded, or expunged.

List all names or aliases you have used, or have been known by _____

Date of birth _____

Driver's license number _____ State _____ Expiration date _____

Have you ever had a driver's license in any other state? YES ___ NO ___ If YES, where? _____

Has your license ever been suspended or revoked, or have you ever been issued a judicial driving permit?
YES ___ NO ___

If YES, please explain _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in any jurisdiction? YES ___ NO ___

If YES, provide the following information for all convictions:

Date of Offense	Jurisdiction	Type of Offense	Disposition of Case

Have you had a break of service in your lawenforcement career? Yes No

If yes, list dates not in active service, duration of break, and reason for break in service:

Have you ever been certified as a police officer in any other state? Yes No

If yes, where and dates of employment:

Have you ever held part time Police Officer employment? Yes No

If yes, where and dates of employment:

Have you ever held any other professional licenses or certifications? Yes No

If yes, please list:

Describe any information regarding the following areas:

Innovative programs you implemented or recommended:

Commendations and/or special achievements:

Experience using computer software:

Please review the job description. Are you able to perform the essential job functions listed therein with or without reasonable accommodation? YES _____ NO _____

If accommodation is needed, please explain: _____

MILITARY SERVICE

Are you now a member or veteran of the U.S. military service, including reserve forces or National Guard? YES _____ NO _____

If YES, which branch of service do, or did, you serve in? _____
Date and location _____

Were you ever convicted at a court-martial? YES _____ NO _____

If YES, explain in detail: _____

Were you Honorably Discharged? YES _____ NO _____

If NO, explain in detail: _____

REFERENCES

Please list five (5) adults not related to you and not former employers, whom you have known for at least three (3) years. All persons to whom you refer will be asked to appraise your character, ability, experience, personality and other qualities. The Ottawa Police Department or its designee reserves the right to contact the references at any time.

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Business phone _____
Occupation _____ Number of years acquainted _____
Email address _____

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Business phone _____
Occupation _____ Number of years acquainted _____
Email address _____

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Business phone _____
Occupation _____ Number of years acquainted _____
Email address _____

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Business phone _____
Occupation _____ Number of years acquainted _____
Email address _____

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ Business phone _____
Occupation _____ Number of years acquainted _____
Email address _____

DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE

The Rules and Regulations of the City of Ottawa Board of Fire and Police Commissioners (BFPC) govern the testing and hiring processes. According to the Rules, the BFPC may refuse to examine or, after examination, refuse to certify as eligible, or refuse to hire, a candidate who:

- a. is found lacking in any of the established preliminary requirements for the service for which he or she applies;
- b. is physically unable to perform the essential duties of the position to which he or she seeks appointment with or without a reasonable accommodation;
- c. abuses alcohol ,drugs or illegal narcotics (including but not limited to any marijuana use within the last 3 years and/or narcotics use within the last 5 years);
- d. has been convicted of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude; no firefighter or police officer candidate shall be disqualified for any misdemeanor convictions except those listed in 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6 of the BFPC Act;
- e. has been dismissed for disciplinary reasons from any public service for good cause;
- f. has been or attempted to be deceptive or fraudulent in his or her application;
- g. is lacking in personal qualifications, educational requirements, or health qualifications;
- h. has character and/or employment references that are unsatisfactory;
- i. has applied for a position of a police officer and is or has been classified by his or her Local Selective Service Draft Board as a conscientious objector;
- j. has been previously disqualified as an eligible candidate by the BFPC from an existing Ottawa eligibility list; and/or
- k. has been previously disqualified for employment with the City of Ottawa due to the failure of a polygraph exam, or police background investigation.

I, as a prospective candidate for a position with the City of Ottawa, have read and understood these standards for disqualification.

Print Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT and GENERAL RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

Read the following carefully before signing.

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read and fully comprehend this application for employment in its entirety. I acknowledge that the information provided on this application for employment and other submitted application materials is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand and agree that any incorrect statement, falsification, misrepresentation or omission of any information in connection with this application for employment / other submitted application materials, whenever or however discovered, may result in the rejection of my application for employment or termination of employment without notice or benefits.

In consideration of my participation in the employment process, I authorize an investigation by the Ottawa Police Department, the City of Ottawa or its officials, employees, appointees, contractors, agents or representatives – jointly termed “the Employer” - of my employment history, background and criminal history, credit history, education, military service, and activities. I authorize the Employer to request and receive such information. I authorize my current / former employers to furnish their records of my service, my reasons for leaving their employ, and all other information they may have concerning me, to the Employer. I understand that the Employer is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in any reports. I agree to cooperate in such an investigation. I hereby fully release and discharge the Employer, its successors, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, from all rights, claims, and damages, whether to person or property, whether known, unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, and all actions of any type whatsoever, which I may have against the Employer arising out of my participation in the employment process. This release is intended to release all claims for injuries, damages, or loss of any kind whatsoever to me, my persons or property, real or personal, whether known, unknown, foreseen, or unforeseen which I may have against the Employer. I understand and acknowledge the significance and consequences of such specific intention to release all claims and do hereby assume full responsibility for any and all expenses, liabilities, injuries, damages, and/or losses that may incur from participating in the employment process.

I understand that all tests, assessments, and results thereof become the property of the City of Ottawa Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and are not subject to review.

I understand that submission of an application for employment does not obligate the Employer to engage in further review of my application for employment. I understand that this document does not constitute an offer of employment or employment contract and establishes no obligation on the part of the Employer to employ me.

Print Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

In signing this document, I understand that I am releasing or giving up certain potential legal rights. I further acknowledge that I have fully read this document and am fully aware of the consequences thereof. Being so informed, I knowingly and voluntarily execute this release.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

Date _____

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby authorize a comprehensive investigation into my background, including, but not limited to, all statements contained in this application and any other document(s) submitted in connection therewith, and permit the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Ottawa Police Department, the City of Ottawa or its officials, employees, appointees, contractors, agents or representatives – jointly termed “the Employer” - to obtain and use all information relating to my previous and current employment, education, military record, credit record, criminal conviction history, personal characteristics and all other information which may bear favorably or unfavorably upon my application for employment made to the Ottawa Department.

I also authorize my previous employers, the educational institutions I attended, any other organizations and individuals to disclose information about me on the subjects covered by this application form or related documents to the Employer. Any individual, educational institution, organization or business entity is hereby released from any and all liability for any damages, which may arise as a result of providing such information. I also agree to release the Employer, from any and all liability arising from the use of the information obtained through the investigation of my background and any action taken based on such information.

As part of the procedure for processing my employment application, an investigative inquiry may be made into my background, which will concern my character and general reputation. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, I am entitled, upon my written request, to receive information as to the nature and scope of the investigation.

I also consent to the release to the Employer of any and all medical records prepared during the physical examination I am required to undergo for employment with the Ottawa Police Department.

If I have had any questions concerning the application process, I have contacted the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and discussed those questions with the Commissioners to my satisfaction.

A duplicate of this form shall carry the same force as the original. This document is effective for two years from date indicated above.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Street Address, City, State, Zip: _____

If you have any questions, please contact: Brent Roalson
 Police Chief
 815.433.2131

REQUEST, AUTHORIZATION, CONSENT AND RELEASE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

I:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME (PLEASE INCLUDE Jr., Sr., II, III Etc.)
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Have carefully read and understand this Disclosure and Authorization form as well as the attached Summary of Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. By my signature below, I consent to preparation of background reports by a consumer reporting agency such as Backgrounds Online, and to the release of such background reports to the Company and its designated representatives and agents, for the purpose of assisting the Company in making a determination as to my eligibility for employment (including independent contractor assignments, as applicable), promotion, retention or for other lawful employment purposes. I understand that if the Company hires me or contracts for my services, my consent will apply, and the Company may obtain background reports throughout my employment or contract period.

I understand that information contained in my employment or contractor application, or otherwise disclosed by me before or during my employment or contract assignment, if any, may be used for the purpose of obtaining and evaluating background reports on me. I also understand that nothing herein shall be construed as an offer of employment or contract for services.

I hereby authorize law enforcement agencies, learning institutions (including public and private schools and universities), information service bureaus, credit bureaus, record/data repositories, courts (federal, state and local), motor vehicle records agencies, my past or present employers, the military, and other individuals and sources to furnish any and all information on me that is requested by the consumer reporting agency.

By my signature below, I also certify the information I provided on and in connection with this form is true, accurate and complete. I agree that this form in original, faxed, photocopied or electronic (including electronically signed) form, will be valid for any background reports that may be requested by or on behalf of the company.

California, Minnesota and Oklahoma Applicants only:
Check box if you request a copy of any consumer report ordered on you.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER ENTITIES FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHEN CHECKING PUBLIC RECORDS. IT IS CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES.

Signed

Today's Date

Printed Name

Position Applied For

Social Security Number

_____/_____/_____
Date of Birth

Driver's License Number State

Other names you have used or are also known as: _____

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES FOR THE PAST 7 YEARS

Current Address:

Street	Apt.#	City	State	Zip Code	How long here?
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Former Address:

Street	Apt.#	City	State	Zip Code	How long here?
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Former Address:

Street	Apt.#	City	State	Zip Code	How long here?
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May we contact your current employer? Yes No

Para información en español, visite www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore o escribe a la Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Here is a summary of your major rights under FCRA. **For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.**

You must be told if information in your file has been used against you. Anyone who uses a credit report or another type of consumer report to deny your application for credit, insurance, or employment – or to take another adverse action against you – must tell you, and must give you the name, address, and phone number of the agency that provided the information.

You have the right to know what is in your file. You may request and obtain all the information about you in the files of a consumer reporting agency (your “file disclosure”). You will be required to provide proper identification, which may include your Social Security number. In many cases, the disclosure will be free. You are entitled to a free file disclosure if: o a person has taken adverse action against you because of information in your credit report; or you are the victim of identity theft and place a fraud alert in your file; o your file contains inaccurate information as a result of fraud; o you are on public assistance; o you are unemployed but expect to apply for employment within 60 days. In addition, all consumers are entitled to one free disclosure every 12 months upon request from each nationwide credit bureau and from nationwide specialty consumer reporting agencies. See www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore for additional information.

You have the right to ask for a credit score. Credit scores are numerical summaries of your credit-worthiness based on information from credit bureaus. You may request a credit score from consumer reporting agencies that create scores or distribute scores used in residential real property loans, but you will have to pay for it. In some mortgage transactions, you will receive credit score information for free from the mortgage lender.

You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. If you identify information in your file that is incomplete or inaccurate, and report it to the consumer reporting agency, the agency must investigate unless your dispute is frivolous. See www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore for an explanation of dispute procedures.

Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. Inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information must be removed or corrected, usually within 30 days. However, a consumer reporting agency may continue to report information it has verified as accurate.

Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information. In most cases, a consumer reporting agency may not report negative information that is more than seven years old, or bankruptcies that are more than 10 years old.

Access to your file is limited. A consumer reporting agency may provide information about you only to people with a valid need – usually to consider an application with a creditor, insurer, employer, landlord, or other business. The FCRA specifies those with a valid need for access.

You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers. A consumer reporting agency may not give out information about you to your employer, or a potential employer, without your written consent given to the employer. Written consent generally is not required in the trucking industry. For more information, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.

You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report. Unsolicited “prescreened” offers for credit and insurance must include a toll-free phone number you can call if you choose to remove your name and address from the lists these offers are based on. You may opt out with the nationwide credit bureaus at 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688).

The following FCRA right applies with respect to nationwide consumer reporting agencies:

CONSUMERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A SECURITY FREEZE

You have a right to place a “security freeze” on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit.

As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on your credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer’s credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting 7 years.

A security freeze does not apply to a person or entity, or its affiliates, or collection agencies acting on behalf of the person or entity, with which you have an existing account that requests information in your credit report for the purposes of reviewing or collecting the account. Reviewing the account includes activities related to account maintenance, monitoring, credit line increases, and account upgrades and enhancements.

You may seek damages from violators. If a consumer reporting agency, or, in some cases, a user of consumer reports or a furnisher of information to a consumer reporting agency violates the FCRA, you may be able to sue in state or federal court.

Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights. For more information, visit www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore.

States may enforce the FCRA, and many states have their own consumer reporting laws. In some cases, you may have more rights under state law. For more information, contact your state or local consumer protection agency or your state Attorney General.