

Will a Bankruptcy Affect My Credit Report?

A bankruptcy case will be reported under the public record section of your credit report. This same section of your credit report is where court cases involving creditor judgments are also listed. A bankruptcy case will be reported in the public records section for 7-10 years depending on the bankruptcy case filed.

- [Chapter 13](#) bankruptcy appears for 7 years. The bankruptcy will be deleted from the public records section 7 years from the filing date of the bankruptcy case.
- [Chapter 7](#) bankruptcy appears for 10 years. The bankruptcy will be deleted from the public records section 10 years from the filing date of the bankruptcy case.

The creditors that are listed in your bankruptcy case and are later discharged in the bankruptcy will still appear on your credit report. These accounts will be marked "Included in Bankruptcy." All delinquent accounts are deleted from your credit report 7 years from the original delinquency date (the date the account first became delinquent and was never current again.)

The accounts should be removed from your credit report automatically. It is important for you to continue to review your credit report to ensure accounts are removed and reported accurately. You can obtain a free credit report each year from the three major credit reporting agencies at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp>.

There is [life after bankruptcy](#). Car loans will be available shortly after bankruptcy; however, interest rates will be very high. If you take out a loan shortly after you receive a discharge in your bankruptcy case, ensure that your car loan does not have a prepayment penalty – so you can refinance your loan later for a lower interest rate. In the current economy mortgage lenders are more conservative in their lending practice, which means qualifying for a mortgage within a few years after bankruptcy will be difficult. FHA and VA loan programs will extend refinancing and mortgage opportunities to bankruptcy filers 2 years after discharge IF debtors have established *perfect* credit. Start saving now for a down-payment.

Filing a bankruptcy case is a big decision. Contact our office for a free initial bankruptcy consultation with a qualified [Kansas City bankruptcy attorney](#) to determine if bankruptcy is the right option for you.