

Problems and Countermeasures in Establishment and Construction of College Students' Credit Files

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Abstract

Through the investigation and analysis of the status of college students' credit files, this essay expatiates on the existing problems in credit file establishment and construction, and puts forward some constructive countermeasures.

Keywords: College students, Credit file, Countermeasures

Due to different recognitions on credit files in Chinese academic circle, there has been no authoritative conclusion up to now. Through studies and researches on this issue, I think that credit file is formed during credit checking activities reflecting credit subjects' credit condition in a variety of social practice and can be utilized as original information record for later examination. By nature, credit checking is a credit information service offered by the third party in order to avoid credit risks. Currently, an increasing number of colleges are joining the construction of college students' credit files and furthering their exploration into depth. However, in terms of a scale of over 2000 colleges in China, only few of them has established credit files for their students. Even those that have established credit files are still lying at an exploratory stage and of course suffering from quite a few puzzles.

1. Major Problems in Establishment and Construction of College Students' Credit Files

1.1 *Insufficient Legal and Institutional Guarantee*

There is no national credit management law issued in China, not to mention that intended for college students. Only mentioned briefly in General Principles of the Civil Law, Law of Bill, Guarantee Law, Criminal Law and Contract Law, credit system is only confined to equal, willing, fair and honest basis. In spite of some local laws which stipulate on credit file management, there is no complete and systematic law to standardize social credit activities at the moment. What's even worse is that some existing laws are hindering the establishment of college students' credit files. For instance, it is stipulated in Commercial Banking Law that banks are prohibited from releasing any client's material to other departments and that they have to gain their clients' permission before accumulating data, which holds back accumulating and utilizing college students' credit files. Student's basic information at college, credit information at bank as well as their rewards and punishments at school are to be recorded in document when establishing credit files. As a result, both banks as the information provider and colleges as the information demander are taking the risk of violating the law.

Similarly, including college students' information in other aspects at school in credit checking has no legal basis since it involves personal secrecy's definition and protection. Although it is laid down in Supreme People's Court's Solutions to Problems on the Use of Law in the Trial of Cases Concerning the Right of Reputation that it is a tort action to expose or release people's privacy without permission, there is no detailed explanation about the definition of personal privacy, how to protect and release it. For example, it is still difficult to define whether students' cheating in exams, fighting with others should be regarded as privacy and be recorded in document. Having not been authorized by law, colleges' credit checking seems blind and tends to arouse tort disputes.

1.2 *Doubtable Fairness of credit Files*

Currently, there is no universal standard concerning what information should be included in college students' credit files. Due to different information for evaluation and completion degree, different conditions among students, no mature and universal system for objective evaluation, the justice and fairness of credit evaluation results are quite doubtful. In spite of a majority of students who hold a positive attitude toward credit files, some show their doubt or even negative opinion due to their worries in three aspects: first, they worry that their family information, economic condition or even daily life information may be released; second, they worry that

those recorded errors may influence their future life or work; third, with only a few colleges providing students' credit files, those students who have some negative records in their files may suffer from unfairness compared with those in other colleges and may therefore have weaker competitiveness in employment. On the other hand, employing units are also doubtful about the role of college students' credit files. Although they attach much attention to graduates' credit during recruitment, most of them are not familiar with the content of college students' credit files or still have reservations about their function even though they have got some idea about that. For most enterprises, current college students' credit files have become a mere formality failing to reveal students' credit reality due to imperfect credit management and evaluation system.

1.3 No Material Support for the Establishment of Credit Files

Certain economic and technological conditions are relied on to establish college students' credit files because considerable manpower, material and financial resources have to be spent and telecommunication and computer technologies are indispensable during the whole process including information accumulation, dynamic management after file establishment and forming final credit evaluation report. There are disputes over whether local credit files should be transferred. If not, credit files' function will be lessened greatly due to regional and temporal restrictions; if they are transferred, it is difficult to find proper units to take them over. Besides, there are differences in the content and evaluation standard of college students' credit files and it is also a problem for a student's credit file gets admitted by an employing unit in another region. Accordingly, when constructing and managing college students' credit files, we cannot advance hastily but have a general plan first and then have systematic research with a scientific and truth-seeking attitude in order to establish a national college student credit file management system and realize information sharing.

2. Major Countermeasures

2.1 A Complete Personal Credit Law System as the Basis for Credit System Construction

A complete credit management law system is a basis and necessary demand for sound and standardized development of credit industry. China is expected to issue and put into practice laws and regulations related to personal credit management to have definite stipulations on recording and collecting personal credit information, managing personal credit files, evaluating, disclosing and using personal credit grades as well as the rights, obligations and behavior rules of personal credit subjects and objects, hence offering laws to go by. According to the experience in developed countries, credit legislation is a long-term process which should go through constant revision and perfection instead of being completed at one attempt. Therefore, personal credit legislation may begin with department regulations or local legislation, which will accumulate experience for later formal laws.

2.2 Perfect Credit Database as an Indispensable Basic Facility for Credit System Construction

Since credit evaluation is mainly based on historical credit records, credit grade evaluation and credit report compilation cannot be conducted and credit information cannot be deep processed without a complete credit checking database. Therefore, credit file database with perfect function is an indispensable basic facility for establishing a personal credit system. Up to now, China Central Bank's personal credit information database and the inquiry system for the information of students with student loans on Student Information Web have laid favorable basis and beginning for the establishment of Chinese college students' credit file system.

2.3 Favorable Personal Credit Consciousness as a Support for the Operation of Credit System

In addition to law system and institutional arrangement, the establishment of credit system relies on trust among subjects and trustworthiness to a large degree. In developed countries with highly developed credit transaction, consumption credit nearly goes along with one's whole life, therefore, people attach much attention to their credit records. Any unfavorable credit record may have negative influences on every possible aspect of life, including applying for credit cards, insurance, education loans, auto loans, housing loans and even looking for jobs. As a result, people try to avoid leaving any unfavorable record in credit agencies' data by inquiring about their own credit reports regularly. As far as Chinese citizens' poor credit sense and credit absence, government should encourage the whole society to have credit awareness, strengthen credit sense, establish an idea that keeping faith is glorious while failing in it is shameful according to The Program for Improving Civic Morality. Through a system to punish breaking faith and reward keeping faith, an idea that good credit is a wealth will promote the construction of credit system.

2.4 Government's Support and propulsion as a Strong force for the Construction of Credit System

Currently, there is no complete credit law system, no standardized credit standard or perfect market environment in China. Only with government departments' propulsion can Central Bank's credit checking system and Student Information Web's inquiry system for the information of students with student loans be conducted smoothly.

Moreover, during the cultivation of credit sense, it is more beneficial for the introduction of credit products and improvement of national credit sense for public management departments to be responsible for the integrated management of credit files free of charge. Therefore, the establishment of college student's credit file system cannot do without government's policy support and organizational guidance. With a public management pattern, the sharing and free use of credit file information can be achieved.

2.5 College Environment as the Favorable Condition for Establishing Credit System

As a cultivation base for new ideas or culture, colleges have a lot of advantages in establishing college student's credit files. First, college students are of strong plasticity and open to new things, hence making it more convenient to cultivate credit sense and operate credit files. College life is a key period for personality to get mature and perfect, a critical stage to cultivate and establish right philosophy of world, life and values as well as a period with strong plasticity. So it is quite necessary to establish credit files. Second, colleges have desirable software and hardware environment. In the aspect of hardware, most colleges are equipped with advanced college automation system and good campus network system due to the rapid development of computer technologies, realizing the transfer from manual management to information management in teaching, research and administration and making it more convenient to introduce credit file management system and to share information data. In the aspect of software, colleges own computer and software professionals and staff with high culture, high comprehensive quality, strong sense of responsibility, strong abilities in organization, coordination, management and innovation as well as practical spirit, benefiting for the operation of credit files throughout the whole school.

To sum up, according to the principle of unified leadership, overall planning, step-by-step implementation and joint establishment and sharing, the establishment of college students' credit file system should be propelled by government departments to realize the sharing of credit file information with the pattern of public management. In addition, legal environment and management institution should be gradually completed and perfected and people's credit sense should be cultivated and improved as well.

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