

# All Credit Cards Are NOT THE SAME

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** *If you carry a credit card*

Easily lost in the fine print of most credit agreements, the rate and fee policies of most large credit card issuers and finance companies are hitting consumers right where it hurts—the wallet! Charging as much as 29.99% for a penalty rate, the big companies who advertise *0% Balance Transfers, 10% Cash Back rewards or No Payments for 6 months*, hide the conditions that make them a ton of money. Late fees. Default penalty rates. Over-the-limit fees. Variable rates. Cash advance fees. And balance transfer fees.

These are just some of the tactics that are blindsiding many consumers today. Did you ever wonder why the payment for the credit card you got from the bank down the street is mailed to South Dakota or Delaware? These states have no cap on the penalty default rate so they can charge whatever they want! Even if you live in Maryland, which caps at 24%, a 1978 Supreme Court decision allows financial institutions to observe the state laws where they chartered instead of where the customer resides.

Additionally, many credit companies are hiking rates for what they deem as “*bad behavior*,” including any late payments to another creditor! You may have had your credit card for years and always paid on time. Then, you miss a cable bill or are late mailing your car payment, and suddenly, you’re paying more for your credit card.

“Your great deal gets lost in the fine print.”

### **What can you do about it?**

**Well, first and foremost, DON'T PAY LATE!**

And not just your credit card payment. Your car payment. Your telephone bill. Your department store card. Your mortgage. Remember, these aggressive credit card companies may raise your rate for paying ANY credit bill late. And, check the fine print. Late could mean a time of day. That means if they don't post your payment until the afternoon, it could be considered late and subject to all the corresponding penalties.

**Secondly**, reread the fine print in your agreement. Is your card chartered in a state like Virginia or Delaware that doesn't cap the penalty default rates? Consider switching to a card in a state with a lower cap. Maryland's cap is 24%, and the Federal Credit Union Act capped interest rates at 18% for federally chartered credit unions like APGFCU!

**Thirdly**, check your fees and “Other APR” rate schedule. Your “*great deal*” card may be a lot pricier than you think. Compare it to the APGFCU Visa card. **The APGFCU VISA® has:**

- **No annual fee.**
- **No balance transfer fees.** Many cards charge a fixed dollar amount AND a percentage of the transaction. Suddenly, “0% on all balance transfers” isn't looking so good.
- **No minimum finance charge.** Most other cards assess a finance charge of anywhere from 50 cents to \$3.00—even if you're not carrying a balance.
- **Low FIXED transaction fee.** APGFCU's transaction fee for a cash advance is FIXED at \$2.00. Citibank® MasterCard® charges 3% of the amount advanced and not less than \$5. Chase Visa® is 3% with a \$10 minimum.
- **Matching cash advance rate.** At APGFCU, if your credit interest rate is 10.9%, so is your cash advance rate. Citibank® advertises a promotional 0% on purchases, but a 19.99% cash advance rate is hiding in the fine print. Discover® advertises 10% back on gas purchases, but discloses its variable interest rate and 20.99-22.99% cash

advance rate in the fine print.

Other credit card and finance companies might advertise fancy deals and enticing

offers, but when you read the fine print and compare, **an APGFCU Visa® Credit Card really is the best deal in town.**

If you don't have an APGFCU Visa® Credit Card, or if you want to transfer your other credit card and loan balances to your current APGFCU card, visit our website at [www.APGFCU.com](http://www.APGFCU.com) to apply or download the forms, or call the Member Service Center and apply over the phone today! 1-800-225-2555 or 410-272-4000 and select option 4.

## APGFCU Visa® Credit Cards Really Are the Best Deal in Town

- NO Annual Fee
- NO balance transfer fees
- NO minimum finance charge
- LOW fixed rate
- 1% cash rebate on balance transfers\*
- View & manage your account online
- Zero liability protection
- Accepted at millions of merchants worldwide



\*First two transfers per card per calendar year.