

Frequently Asked Questions Purchases, Mergers and Deposits

Is my money safe in a bank?

The safest place for your money is still in the bank. Over the past 40 years Michigan banks have been among the very safest in the nation. Michigan banks are well managed, highly regulated and regularly examined by government agencies to ensure the highest level of oversight of any industry in the nation. There is no safer place for your money than your local bank.

What if my bank merges or is purchased by another bank?

Like other businesses, banks are growing and changing to meet the needs of their customers. Often in the course of business, two banks will decide to merge to become one bank. Or, one bank purchases another bank. This simply means that deposits, loans and assets of the two banks become one.

Customers may notice only a name change on their checking accounts and other documents. Often the change means that more services are available to customers such as additional branch locations, more ATMs or other products.

Are my deposits safe?

Your local commercial banks and savings banks are safe and sound and your deposits carry FDIC insurance.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is an independent federal agency created in 1933 to promote public confidence and stability in the nation's banking system. Throughout its history, the FDIC has provided bank customers with prompt access to their insured deposits in the infrequent instance of an FDIC-insured bank failure. In the FDIC's 75-year history, no customer has ever lost a single penny of insured deposits.

Deposits are insured by the FDIC for up to \$250,000 through Dec 31, 2009 per depositor per insured bank and up to \$250,000 for retirement accounts.

What does it mean if my bank is listed by the media as a troubled bank?

Michigan is fortunate to have excellent bank regulators. The Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation (OFIR) as well as the FDIC and others examine banks thoroughly and regularly. When they see something that could lead to a potential problem they require the bank to make changes to correct or improve the situation. Reports are being circulated that identify supposedly troubled banks. These lists are not compiled by the FDIC or OFIR— but by self-appointed financial overseers, some with questionable motives. Those reports are often inaccurate and out of date and could cause serious harm to an institution that is already addressing regulators' concerns. In addition, sometimes the analysts generating those reports are wrong.

What should I do if I have more questions or concerns?

You can rest assured that our banks are safe and secure. The best financial move you can make at this time is to talk to your local banker. Sit down and ask questions about your account. It is your responsibility to be an informed financial consumer. Call or visit your bank. They will be happy to answer your questions and assist you.