

IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Call any business where you know fraud took place. Ask to speak with the fraud department Ask for your cards or account to be frozen.
2. Place an initial fraud alert on your files. Contact one of the three major U.S. credit reporting companies to report yourself as a victim of identity theft.
3. Order a credit report. By law, you are entitled to a free copy of your credit report once a year from all three companies. Prepare copies for the FTC and your local police.
4. File a complaint about the theft with the FTC. You can do so online or over the phone.
5. File a police report. Go to your local police to report you are a victim to identity theft. Bring along a copy of your FTC Identity Theft Affidavit; any other proof of identity; proof of your address; a government-issued photo I. D.

GET INVOLVED!

If you see any suspicious activity taking place, or have any information pertaining to a crime, don't hesitate to call the police!

Your information is valuable and could help victims gain closure and police gain justice.

For other safety tips and alerts provided by the department, visit the Police News page located on our website.



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IDENTITY THEFT

*Tips to protect yourself
against identity theft*

WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT?

Typical identity theft involves a thief stealing your personal information to pose as you in some way.

SYNTHETIC IDENTITY THEFT

A newer and growing variety - synthetic identity is born when your personal information is combined with fake data to create a brand new, fake identity.

A thief will combine your Social Security number with a different name or other fake credentials.

Synthetic identity theft can be harder to detect - which will lead to more damage in the long run.

STATISTICS

One of the fastest growing crimes in America

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that identity theft victimized close to 17 million people in 2012 alone

Identity theft has topped the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ranking of consumer complaints for 15 years

TRADITIONAL TACTICS

MAIL THEFT

- Consider renting a P.O. box at your local post office
- Practice placing outgoing mail into a postal mailbox

DUMPSTER DIVING

- Shred unwanted documents containing sensitive information
- You may want to invest in a high-quality cross-cut shredder. Thieves can piece together papers shredded horizontally.

SHOULDER SURFING

- Takes place when "shoulder surfers" observe your actions or eavesdrops to gain access to sensitive information
- Shield keypads with your hand or body when entering your PINs and/or passwords
- Avoid sharing personal information over the phone in public

PURSE OR WALLET SNATCHING

- Minimize what you carry in your wallet, especially payment cards
- Never carry your Social Security card on your person
- Never carry PIN or account information with you; keep them safely locked at home



PROTECT.
DETECT.
CORRECT.

PROTECT yourself.

DETECT warning signs.

CORRECT problems that arise if your identity is stolen

HOW CAN IDENTITY THEFT AFFECT ME?

- drain your bank account
- make purchases with your credit cards
- open new accounts (bank, cell phone, utility, credit card, etc.) in your name
- get identity and government documents issued with your name
- receive medical care
- take out loans in your name