

What To Do If Someone Steals Your Identity

- Call the Sheriff non-emergency line to report the crime.
- Contact the Identity Theft Council.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission.
- Keep a log of all your contacts and make copies of all documents.
- Contact all 3 credit bureaus to inform of the crime and put a fraud alert on your credit file.
- Alert your banks to flag your accounts to detect any unusual activity.
- Call the DMV to make sure another license hasn't been issued in your name.

Credit Reporting Agencies

TransUnion
www.transunion.com
(800) 680-7289

Experian
www.experian.com
(888) 397-3742

Equifax
www.Equifax.com
(888) 766-0008

Resources and Contacts Agencies

US Postal Inspection Service
Federal and Local
www.uspis.gov

Social Security Administration
Fraud Hotline- (800) 269-0271

Identity Theft Resource Center
Free victim services
(888) 400-5530
www.idtheftcenter.org/

Federal Trade Commission
(877) 1DTHEFT (438-4338)
www.ftc.gov
*Free annual credit report

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff-Coroner Eddie Engram



707-565-2650



2796 Ventura Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



sonomasheriff.org



Important Phone Numbers

Emergency.....9-1-1
Dispatch (Non-Emergency).....565-2121
Business Line (Non-Emergency).....565-2650
River Sub-Station.....869-0202
Sonoma Valley Sub.....996-9495



SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Identity Theft

How to Reduce Your Chances of
Becoming a Victim



In partnership with our communities, we commit to provide professional, firm, fair, and compassionate public safety services with integrity and respect.

SONOMASHERIFF.ORG

Identity Theft and Prevention



California Penal Code- PC 530.5

(a) Every person who willfully obtains personal identifying information, as defined in subdivision (b), of another person, and uses that information for any unlawful purpose, including to obtain, or attempt to obtain, credit, goods, services, real property, or medical information without the consent of that person, is guilty of a public offense...

Overview

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in California. Most cases involve suspects stealing key pieces of someone's identifying information, such as their name, address, date of birth, social security and mother's maiden name and using that information to impersonate the victim, usually for financial gain. Once the suspect obtains the information, they can access the victim's financial accounts, apply for credit cards, purchase automobiles, receive social security benefits and even establish services for utilities. Victims can suffer financial ruin and experience trauma and frustration while trying to reclaim their good name.

How Do Thieves Steal an Identity?

Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personally identifying information such as your name and Social Security number, credit card numbers, or other financial account information. For identity thieves, this information is as good as gold. Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including:

Dumpster Diving They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.

Skimming They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

Phishing They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.

Changing Your Address They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.

Old-Fashioned Stealing They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records, or bribe employees who have access.

How to Protect Yourself on the Internet

- Use caution when disclosing checking account numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal financial data at any website or on-line service.
- Do not respond to e-mails from companies asking to confirm personal information, even if the e-mail looks as if it is from a company you know. Call them yourself.
- Keep login IDs and passwords in a safe place or memorize them.

How to Reduce Your Chances of Becoming a Victim

- A credit or security freeze allows you to freeze your credit reports for a specified period. The idea is that when your credit reports are frozen, no enquiries can be made for new credit accounts, meaning a thief should not be able to apply for new credit in your name.
- Promptly remove delivered mail from your mailbox or get a locking mailbox. Deposit outgoing mail in official mailboxes or at your local post office.
- Have important items such as bank statements or DMV information sent to a P.O. Box if you do not have a locking mail box.
- Never give personal information over the telephone (social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card number, or bank PIN code) unless you initiated the phone call. Beware of mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions offering instant prizes designed to obtain your personal information.
- Shred unwanted pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, bills, and other financial information.
- Order your credit report from the three credit bureaus at least once a year to check for fraudulent activity or other discrepancies. (*this is free once a year from the FTC)
- Check your credit card and bank statements daily/weekly/monthly for fraudulent charges.
- Memorize your social security number and all of your passwords, don't keep them in your purse or wallet.
- Report all lost or stolen credit cards and checks immediately. Contact the issuer if replacement credit cards are not received.