

Identity Theft: Preventive and Responsive Measures



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A Program of the National Institute of Justice

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Identity Theft: Preventive/Responsive Measures

Preventive Measures:

- **Never** give out any of the following personal information to unknown sources: **Date/Place of Birth, Social Security Number, Mother's Maiden Name**
- Never have any personal information printed on bank checks
- Leave your social security card, passport, birth certificate and other confidential documents in a secure location
- Review your credit report at least once a year
- Shred any paper that contains personal information (i.e., credit card applications, prescription labels, canceled checks, ATM receipts)
- Ensure secure online transactions by locating the closed lock icon at the bottom right hand side of your Web Browser before disclosing any personal information
- Sign up for 1-888-5-OPTOUT to limit the amount of marketing mail you receive
- For more information regarding preventive measures, log onto www.consumer.gov/idtheft



Responsive Measures:

- Contact your local police department
- Contact your credit card issuer(s)
- Place a fraud alert with the following credit reporting agencies:

Equifax Credit Information Services

1-800-525-6285

Experian

1-888-397-3742

Trans Union

1-800-680-7289

- Contact the Social Security Administration's Office at 1-800-269-0271
- Fill out an "ID Theft Affidavit" at www.consumer.gov/idtheft
- Document all the steps taken during the investigation