

# What is Identity Theft?

Identity Theft is the fraudulent use of another person's identity for some type of gain. This usually takes the form of using another person's identity to obtain credit cards, steal money from bank accounts, apply for loans, obtain a job, rent an apartment, obtain utilities or telephone, or avoid paying fines.



## WHERE DO THEY GET THIS INFORMATION?

**Vehicle burglars** target property left in a vehicle containing your personal information (purses, wallets, registration, etc.)

**Mail thieves** target incoming and outgoing mail out of home mailboxes that contain personal information and account numbers.

**Dumpster divers** scrounge the trash for copies of credit card bills or receipts, bank statements or other personal papers containing information.

**Sales clerks, restaurant employees, anyone** you have paid using a check or credit card or anyone who has requested your identification to complete a transaction.

**Telephone books, internet, anywhere** your name, address or other personal information may appear.

## Protect your Personal Information

To "opt out" of receiving pre-screened credit and insurance offers from the credit bureau mailing lists call:

1-888-5-OPTOUT(1-888-567-8688) or visit:  
[www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)

To remove your name from direct mail lists, send your name, address, and telephone number to:

DMA Mail Preference Service  
P.O. Box 643  
Carmel, NY 10512

To remove your name from calling lists place your name on the national "Do Not Call" list:

Call: 1-888-382-1222  
On-line: [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)  
The list is updated four times a year (January, April, July and October).

To remove your e-mail address from many direct e-mail lists, visit:

[www.dmaconsumers.org](http://www.dmaconsumers.org)

To remove your name from Sweepstakes lists:

Readers Digest:  
Call: 1-800-310-6261  
or write: Reader's Digest  
P.O. Box 5005  
Prescott, AZ 86301-5005

Publishers Clearing House:  
Call: 1-877-379-3377  
webpage: [www.pch.com](http://www.pch.com)

## Reporting Identity Theft

Call your local law enforcement agency,

**and**  
Call the Federal Trade Commission:  
1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338)

**Or visit:** [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft)

**Or write:** ID Theft Clearinghouse, FTC,  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
NW, Washington, DC 20580

Call one of the three major Credit Bureaus to request a "fraud alert" be placed on your account. They will notify the other two.

**and**  
If the Identity Theft involves the use of your Social Security Number call:  
Social Security Number Fraud Hotline  
1-800-269-0271

**PROTECT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY  
NUMBER !!**

**NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL  
INFORMATION WITH SOMEONE YOU  
DON'T KNOW!!**



**SHRED !**

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