



**IDENTITY**

**THEFT**





Reducing the  
Chances and  
Minimizing  
the Damage.

# What Is ID Theft?

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your name, Social Security number, account numbers, or other identifying data to commit fraud or other crimes.

# Common Theft Techniques

- Steal or divert mail
- Dumpster dive
- Steal wallet or electronic device
- Hack into computer
- Access info you enter online or send by email
- Pose as legitimate company and request info
- Attach skimmer to ATM
- Take advantage of personal relationship



# Common Outcomes

- Make charges on existing credit card account
- Open new credit card account
- Take out loan
- Use existing checking account
- Obtain a government benefits or use health insurance



# Preventing ID Theft

- Review your credit report from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion at least once a year
  - *Annualcreditreport.com*
- Guard personal information
  - *Know who you are dealing with*
- Check your statements
  - *Contact financial institution right away if spot unauthorized charge*

# Preventing ID Theft (continued)

- Minimize and protect your mail
  - *Elect to receive online statements*
  - *Don't leave mail sitting in mailbox*
- Avoid a false sense of security
  - *Always keep eye on possessions*
- Only carry with you what you need
- Dispose carefully
  - *Use shredder*

# Preventing ID Theft (continued)

- Protect your computer & smartphone
  - *Use anti-virus/anti-spyware software*
  - *Make passwords hard to guess*
  - *Log off when leave the room*
  - *Use wipe program before disposing*
  - *Use secure sites and don't open unknown links*
- Consider extra protection – carefully
  - *Credit report monitoring*
  - *Identity theft insurance*





## Recovering from ID Theft (continued)

- Check credit reports
- Dispute fraudulent items
- Place fraud alert or credit freeze on credit report
- Keep copies of paperwork and log of what you have done

# Consumer Protection Laws

## Fair Credit Reporting Act

- *Can get free report if denied due to credit*
- *Have right to dispute inaccuracies*
- *Limits who can see your report*

## FACT Act (amendment to FCRA)

- *Can get free report annually*
- *Can block fraudulent info from appearing on report*
- *Can access fraudulent records*
- *Can place fraud alert on report*

# Consumer Protection Laws (continued)

## Fair Credit Billing Act

- *Limits liability for fraudulent credit transactions*
- *Have 60 days to dispute credit card billing error*

## Electronic Funds Transfer Act

- *Limits liability for a lost or stolen debit card*
- *Have 60 days to dispute checking or savings account error*



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