

You Can Fight Identity Theft

The first step to fighting identity theft is prevention. Stop criminals in their tracks with these four helpful hints...

• Never provide personal financial information, including social security number, account numbers or passwords, over the phone or Internet if you did not initiate the contact.

• Do not be intimidated by an e-mail or caller who suggests serious consequences if you do not immediately provide information/send money.

• Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails as they may contain viruses.

• Shred all financial documents and paperwork with personal information before discarding.

• If you fall victim to an attack, act immediately to protect yourself. Alert your financial institution. Place fraud alerts on your credit files. Monitor your credit and bank accounts closely.

Report all suspicious emails or calls to the Federal Trade Commission through the Internet at: www.consumer.gov/idtheft, or by calling 1-877-IDTHEFT.



If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft contact:

East Hartford Police 31 School Street East Hartford, CT 06108 (860) 528-4401

EHPD Form 216 - Rev. 6-30-15

# *EAST HARTFORD POLICE* Identity **THEFT**

Helpful Websites and Resources:

Visit the FTC's website at: www.consumer.gov/idtheft and www.identitytheft.gov

The Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center 1-800-851-3420

Department of Justice - Financial Crimes 1-202-514-7023

Publications, Identity Theft and Your SSN: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf



Prevention Information and Victim's Guide

## Identity THEFT

Identity theft is a serious crime. It occurs when personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud and other crimes. Identity theft will cost you time, money and even your good name.

#### THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF THEFT:

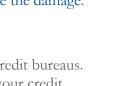
- CREDIT CARD FRAUD
- BANK FRAUD
- FRAUDULENT LOANS
- SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD
- DRIVER'S LICENSE THEFT
- COMMUNICATIONS
  SERVICES FRAUD
- INCOME TAX FRAUD



Identity theft is a fast growing crime in America. There are numerous ways for criminals to obtain your personal information. If you believe you have become a victim, act quickly to minimize the damage.

#### STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

- Contact the fraud department of the three major credit bureaus. Through the credit bureaus place a fraud alert on your credit reports and monitor your credit. Placing a fraud alert puts
- creditors on notice that you have been a victim of fraud/identity theft.2. Request a credit report. Each person is entitled to a FREE
- credit report through each of the three main bureaus per year.
- 3. Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been opened fraudulently or used without your permission. Prevent offers for new credit cards being mailed to you. To stop preapproved credit offers call 1-888-5-OPT-OUT. This will reduce the risk of your information being available to open fraudulent accounts.
- 4. Cancel credit cards, requesting new cards/new account numbers.
- 5. If a Driver's License is involved contact your local DMV.
- 6. If social security numbers are involved contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271.
- 7. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 1-877-IDTHEFT or at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.
- 8. File a report with your local police department.



If you fall victim to identity theft immediately contact the fraud division at the three major credit bureaus:



EQUIFAX

1-800-525-6285 P.O. Box 740250 Atlanta, GA 30374



EXPERIAN

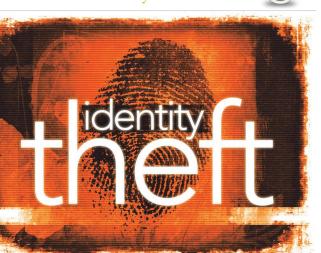
1-888-397-3742 P.O. Box 1017 Allen, TX 75013



### TRANSUNION

1-800-680-7289 P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92634





#### ARE YOU AT RISK?

Understanding Identity Theft - A Serious and Increasingly Common Crime