

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is when someone assumes your identity to commit a crime.

Reduce Your Risk

- Purchase a paper shredder to destroy mail and other documents that contain information about you, such as social security number, name, address, birth date and bank account numbers.
- Don't give out personal or financial information unless you initiate the action.
- Guard your checks, credit cards, driver's license, social security card and PIN number closely.
- Reconcile your accounts frequently, immediately reporting discrepancies to your bank.
- Report unauthorized account transactions to your local police.
- Check your credit report at least annually and question unfamiliar entries.



Guard Your Social Security Number

- Don't share your Social Security Number without asking questions first. Ask why it's needed, how it will be used and what will happen if you refuse to share it.
- If you suspect someone is using your Social Security Number to create credit or get a job you should immediately contact the Social Security Agency and check your credit report.
- Recognize ways that your Social Security Number can be stolen to reduce the risk. These ways include theft from wallets and purses, theft of mail (bank statements, credit card statements, tax information), mishandled employer personnel records, personal papers picked from the trash, and through phone and e-mail scams.