

# Reporting identity theft

If you are a victim of identity theft, report it immediately.

File a police report, which is important to protect yourself if an ID thief starts using your information to commit crimes.

File an identity theft complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online or call 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

Place a freeze or fraud alert on your credit reports.

If you are the victim of medical ID theft, notify your insurer and medical providers, get copies of your medical files and ask to have them corrected.

If you are the victim of tax ID theft you can contact the IRS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
KEEPING YOU AND YOUR LOVED  
ONES SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT  
YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCY.

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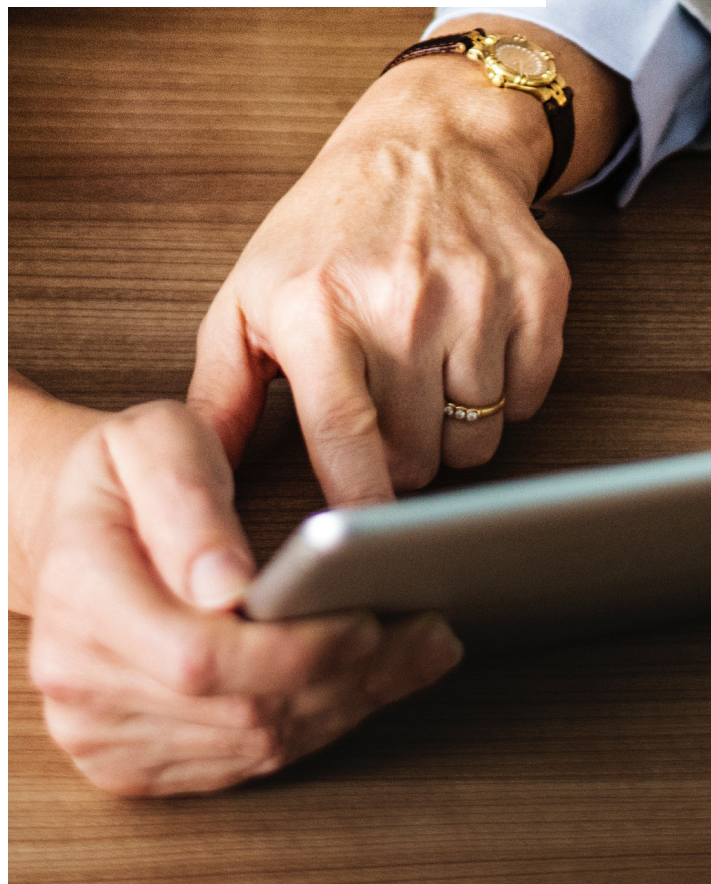
THIS INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION



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[NationalPolice.org](http://NationalPolice.org)



## SAFETY GUIDE IDENTITY THEFT



# Identifying, preventing and reporting identity theft

Identity (ID) theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it for financial or other gains.

Identity thieves might use your information to get medical treatment, apply for a loan, or file taxes.

When this happens, it can take a long time for the victim to recover their credit, which can affect their ability to rent an apartment, get a credit card, borrow money, etc. In some cases, victims are also accountable for bills of accounts they did not open, or items they did not buy.

## Types of identity theft

Some of the most common types of ID theft include:

- Driver's license theft: Someone uses your license to buy items under your name and get other forms of identification with their picture.
- Credit or debit card fraud: When someone uses your credit card or credit account to make purchases.
- Tax ID theft: When someone uses your social security number to file tax returns with the IRS or your state.
- Medical ID theft: When someone else uses your health insurance number to obtain medical services or send fake bills to your health insurance provider.



## How do you know your identity has been stolen?

You might be a victim of ID theft if:

- You receive bills for items you didn't buy.
- You get calls from bill collectors for accounts you didn't open.
- There are withdrawals from your bank account or charges on your credit card you don't recognize.
- Your credit score changes unexpectedly, or accounts appear on your credit report that you don't recognize.

## How to prevent identity theft

- Keep your social security number safe. Do not put your social security card in your wallet, and do not share your social security number unless absolutely necessary for work or financial purposes. If you throw away documents with your social security number on them, shred them first.
- Do not share personal information like your birth date or bank account number unless absolutely necessary. If you throw away documents with your personal information on them, shred them first.
- Bring your mail in every day to keep personal information or credit applications from sitting in your mailbox.
- Password protect all technology (laptops, smart phones, wi-fi)
- Install trusted antivirus and antispyware on your computer, and never download anything from a source you don't trust