

For more information, you can go to the following websites:

U.S. Postal Service:

www.usps.com/postalinspectors/idthft_ncpw.htm

Internet Crime Complaint Center:

www.ic3.gov/preventiontips.aspx

Oklahoma University Police:

www.ou.edu/oupd/idtheft.htm

FTC - Identity Theft:

www.consumer.gov/idtheft/ or

[https://rn.ftc.gov/pls/dod/widtpubl\\$.startup?](https://rn.ftc.gov/pls/dod/widtpubl$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU03)

[Z_ORG_CODE=PU03](https://rn.ftc.gov/pls/dod/widtpubl$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU03)

Dep't of Justice:

www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/idtheft.html

Social Security Administration:

www.ssa.gov/pubs/idtheft.htm

Law Enforcement Database:

<http://www.consumer.gov/sentinel/>

Private Site:

www.identitytheft.org

Important Phone Numbers:

120th Precinct Detective Squad:..... (718) 981-4398

122nd Precinct Detective Squad: (718) 667-2250

123rd Precinct Detective Squad: (718) 948-6805

RCDA Detective Squad: (718) 556-7155

RCDA Detective Investigators: (718) 556-7186

Notes:

Compliments of:

Office of the District Attorney - Richmond County

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Richmond County**



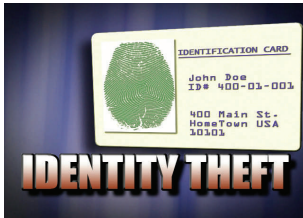
**Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
District Attorney**

IDENTITY THEFT

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Prevention

1. *Review your consumer credit reports at least annually.* Under federal law, the “Big Three” – TransUnion, Equifax and Experian – must provide you with a free copy of your own report. AnnualCreditReport.com is the official website set up to help consumers get these free reports on the Internet.



2. *Shred and destroy unwanted documents that contain personal information and credit cards.* You can get a good cross-cut (confetti) shredder sufficient for home use at most office supply stores for about \$40.00.
3. *Deposit mail in a U.S. Postal Service collection box.* Do not leave it sticking out of your mailbox, or in other unsecure locations.
4. *Get a mailbox with a lock*
5. *Plan for vacations.* Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight, on weekends, or while you are away. Ask a trusted family member or friend to put your mail inside your house.
6. *Do not respond to any solicitations for your personal information.* Do not trust an email, phone call, or stranger at your door

who asks for your date of birth, social security number, or financial information.

7. *Do not fall for fraudulent scams.* You did not win the Mexican or Canadian Lottery. There is no priest or government official who is going to try to hide church or government money in your bank account for a percentage. Your mother told you nothing in life is free. She was right.

Reducing Loss

The best way to reduce loss is to be proactive.



If any of the following events take place, let your financial institutions know, and order your credit report immediately:

1. Unexplained charges or withdrawals in your financial accounts.
2. Failing to receive monthly bills.
3. Unexplained periods during which you receive no mail.
4. Receiving unexplained credit cards or statements of accounts.
5. A lender tries to repossess a car you don't own.
6. Being denied credit for no apparent reason.
7. Receiving calls or letters from creditors, merchants, or debt collectors for services or items you did not buy.

Do **not** assume that these events were a simple mistake or computer error. Always follow up with the business or institution. Credit card companies can be contacted at the phone number that appears on the back side of your credit card.

Reporting Identity Theft and Frauds

If you think you were the victim of identity theft or another fraud, the next step after contacting the business or institution and ordering your credit report is to contact the appropriate authorities. For thefts involving the United States mail, contact the U.S. Postal Inspector at www.usps.com/postalinspectors/. For eBay or other online auction or merchant fraud, contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. You can also contact your local NYPD precinct and file a complaint. When filing a police complaint, make sure to bring with you all documents evidencing what events took place, and the identity of the perpetrator (including phone numbers, email address, web sites, etc.).

