

HELPFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Federal Trade Commission

1. 877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338)

Address:

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Social Security Administration

1- 800-269-0271

Three Major Credit Reporting

Agencies

1. Experian - 888-397-3742
2. Equifax - 888-766-0008
3. TransUnion - 800-680-7289

SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIFF WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

7361 POWELL RD.
WILDWOOD, FLORIDA 34785

MAIN OFFICE: 352-569-1600
DISPATCH: 352-793-2621
CID: 352-569-1680
FAX: 352-569-1605

VILLAGE ANNEX (SCSO)
8035 CR 466
THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA 32162
352-689-4600

WEBSITE ADDRESS:
www.sumtercountysheriff.org

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911



"Secure your financial future from identity thieves by having the knowledge to act when identity theft suspicion presents itself"

SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR.

IDENTITY THEFT INFORMATION BROCHURE



"To provide a safer financial future for the citizens of Sumter County, Florida in the fight against Identity Theft"

***A publication of the Sumter County
Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation
Division***

IDENTITY THEFT



Identity theft occurs when someone gains access to a multitude of personal identification information, belonging to you, and uses your information to conduct criminal activity.

Criminals commit identity theft in the following ways:

- Theft of purse, wallet, credit cards or social security number or a combination of the same
- Mail theft or mail diversion, also “dumpster diving” which means someone steals your disposed credit card statements from your garbage
- Burglary to your residence or vehicle to obtain credit information or identification information
- “Phishing” which is fraudulent emails that appear to be legitimate where the criminal requests personal information about you
- “Hacking” which means that someone gained access to your computer from an outside source
- “Shouldering” which means that someone has photographed your credit card number or bank account number while the item is in your hand.
- Internet transaction or purchases to unsecured websites that are completed by you or a family member
- Identification information solicited via the phone as the person claims to be a legitimate business representative from a well known cooperation or business
- There are also a large amount of computer related scams that can go along with identity theft, such as: Nigerian Scams, Advanced Fee Fraud. Lottery Scams, Auction Scams and Employment Scams (Examples of the above-listed scams can be found on the internet at www.scamdex.com)

What can I do if I become a victim of Identity Theft?

- Fraudulent charges on your credit cards, ATM/ Debit cards, Food Stamp cards etc..
- Fraudulent accounts opened in your name, to include credit cards, mortgages, internet subscriptions and a variety of loans.
- Counterfeit credit cards may be created with your credit card number
- Utilization of your information to avoid their true identity when confronted by law enforcement
- Bank accounts can be opened in your name

How can I tell if I have been a victim of ID Theft?

- Bills that do not belong to you, but are in your name, begin showing up in your mail
- Denial of credit for unknown reasons
- Calls from debt collectors
- Unsolicited credit cards may appear in your mailbox
- Your real bills may not arrive via mail
- Fraudulent purchases on your credit card
- Incorrect credit report entries
- Suspicious phone calls soliciting information about you



ID Theft Prevention Strategies

- Memorize your social security number
- Limit your usage of credit card purchases online
- Limit the amount of personal info you carry in your wallet or purse
- Obtain a post office box rather than a mailbox
- **SHRED** all discarded credit card and bank account statements
- Do not document passwords to your accounts on your computer
- Do not provide anyone with your credit card number over the phone
- Do not allow people to see your account information while in public
- Install adequate anti-virus software on your computer, to include anti-spam, anti-virus, anti-malware, anti-spyware and a maintain a firewall.

What can I do if I become a victim of ID Theft?

1. Call local law enforcement and make a report.
2. If your credit card was compromised or an account was opened in your name, cancel the account.
3. If the theft involves your social security number contact the Social Security Administration at 800-269-0271 to report it.
4. Contact all three credit reporting agencies and place a “Fraud Alert” on your credit information.
5. Notify your financial institution if it involves your bank account information.