

WHAT IF IT HAPPENS TO ME?

If you think someone has stolen your identity, act fast:

- Be sure to report identity theft to our office by completing our online scam complaint form at ag.ky.gov/scams.
- Place a fraud alert or security freeze on your credit reports and carefully review them. To place a fraud alert, contact one of the national credit bureaus listed below:

TransUnion.com (800) 680-7289
www.transunion.com
Equifax.com (800) 525-6285
www.equifax.com
Experian.com (888) 397-3742
www.experian.com

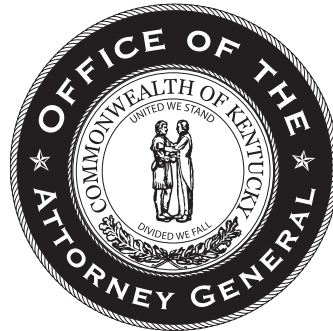
- Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- File a report with local law enforcement.
- Keep a log of persons with whom you speak and when. Keep copies of all letters and documents.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-ID-THEFT or online at www.identitytheft.gov

Step-by-step information is available in the
Federal Trade Commission
IDENTITY THEFT BOOKLET

Download a kit online:
www.ag.ky.gov/identity-theft
To obtain a hard copy, call
1-800-804-7556 or (502) 696-5300

For more information, contact:

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
1024 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 696-5300



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IDENTITY THEFT
THE NAME GAME

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

IDENTITY THEFT

DON'T GET PLAYED

THE NAME GAME

There's a new breed of criminal out there planning to steal your good name. They want to play with your identity and you lose every time.

WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT?

Identity theft is a crime and it involves acquiring key pieces of someone's identifying information - such as name, address, date of birth, social security number and mother's maiden name - in order to impersonate them. This information enables the thief to commit numerous forms of fraud which include taking over a victim's financial accounts, applying for loans, credit cards and social security benefits, using existing credit accounts to run up charges, writing bad checks, renting apartments, buying cars and establishing services with utility and phone companies. Thieves will ruin their victim's credit. They may also use their victim's name when committing crimes or driving offenses, resulting in warrants being issued in the victim's name.

HOW CAN THEY GET MY IDENTITY?

- **From your trash.** Identity thieves get copies of credit card receipts, credit applications and other information that have been placed in the trash.
- **From your mailbox.** Thieves steal letters waiting to be picked up by postal carriers.
- **By using email.** Thieves often pose as legitimate companies you do business with in order to obtain personal information or financial information.
- **From stolen wallets or purses.**
- **By using the Internet.** Internet abusers can steal information you share or piece together information available about you online.
- **By dishonest personnel.** Your employee records or other personal records can be accessed and the information sold to identity thieves.
- **From security breaches of data** maintained by business entities with which you have credit or other types of financial accounts or relationships. After obtaining personal information in a data breach, criminals often buy and sell it on the dark web.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF?

- ✓ Review your bank and credit card statements as soon as you receive them.
- ✓ Order a copy of your credit report annually and check it carefully. You are entitled to a free copy once every 12 months. Call 1-877-322-8228 or go online: www.annualcreditreport.com
- ✓ Consider whether to place a "security freeze" on your account which prevents any potential creditor from accessing your report without your consent. Check with the credit reporting bureaus:

Equifax - (800) 525-6285

Experian - (888) 397-3742

TransUnion - (800) 680-7289

- ✓ Reduce pre-approved credit card applications mailed to your home by calling 1-888-5-OPT OUT or 1-888-567-8688.
- ✓ Never give bank or credit card information over the phone unless you initiated the call and know the business.
- ✓ When ordering by phone or online, use a credit card rather than a debit card.
- ✓ If you get an email or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply or click on the link in the message.
- ✓ Shred or destroy any personally identifying documents before disposing of them.
- ✓ Secure personal information in your home.