

What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft 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 identity thief to commit numerous forms of fraud which include, but are limited to, taking over a victim's financial accounts, opening new bank accounts, purchasing automobiles, applying for loans, credit cards and social security benefits, renting apartments, and establishing services with utility and phone companies.

Preventative Actions

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery.
- Deposit outgoing mail in the post office collection mailboxes or at your social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card number, or bank PIN code, unless you initiated the phone call. Protect this information and release it only when absolutely necessary.

What to do if you become a victim:

- Set up a folder to keep a detailed history of this crime.
- Keep a log of all your contacts and make copies of all documents.
- Contact all creditors by phone and in writing to inform them of the problem.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the problem. www.ftc.gov
- Call each of the three credit bureaus' fraud units to report identity theft. Ask to have a "Fraud Alert / Victim Impact" statement in your credit file asking that creditors call you before opening any new account.
- Request a copy of your credit report be sent to you

Equifax

P.O. Box 74021, Atlanta, GA
30374-024

Order a report 1-800-685-1111

Report fraud 1-800-525-6285

Experian

P.O. Box 949, Allen, TX
75013-0949

Order a report 1-888-397-3742

Report fraud 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union

P.O. Box 390, Springfield, PA
19049-0390

Order a report 1-800-916-8800

Report Fraud 1-800-680-7289

- Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271.
- Contact the state office of the Department of Motor Vehicles to see if another license was issued in your name. If so, request a new license number and fill out the DMV's complaint form to begin the fraud investigation process. www.dmv.ca.gov
- Contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center (FBI) and report. This service and the Federal Trade Commission's website are clearing house's for identity theft investigations. www.ic3.gov
- If available obtain suspect information / witness information.
- Notify the US Postal Inspector if your mail has been stolen. www.usps.gov
- Additional assistance for Identity Theft Victims can be obtained from California Department of Consumer Affairs. www.dca.ca.gov
- Additional assistance and information can be obtained from the Privacy Rights Clearing House. www.privacyrights.org
- Additional information can be obtained from the U.S. Government Accounting Office. www.gao.gov

Notes:

HPD Case #

Officer:

(831) 636-4330 ext. #



**Identity Theft
Victim Information
Pamphlet**

**Hollister Police Department
395 Apollo Way
Hollister CA 95023
Ph: (831) 636-4330
Fax: (831) 636-4339**