

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE A VICTIM



★ Contact the fraud department of the three major bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file.

★ Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

★ File a police Report make sure to receive a copy to submit to your creditors.

★ File your complaint with the FTC at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft.com](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft.com)



Sheriff Ken J. Mascara

### St Lucie County Sheriff's Office

4700 West Midway Road  
Fort Pierce, FL. 34981

Office: 772-871-5303  
Fax: 772-871-5351  
[www.stluciesheriff.com](http://www.stluciesheriff.com)



# Identity Theft



**ST. LUCIE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*Sheriff Ken J. Mascara*

## How Identity Theft Occurs



For an identity theft to occur all a criminal needs is any combination of your Social Security number, birth date, address, and phone number. This makes it possible to create a fictitious drivers license and then pose as you in order to apply for credit. Identity thieves can get information about you from doctors, lawyers, schools, health insurance carriers, and other places. Criminals can pick up your discarded personal information, such as utility bills, credit card statements, and bank statements. Identity thieves can steal your social security number through emails asking you to update your personal information.

## How to Prevent Identity Theft

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the internet unless you have initiated to contact or know with whom you 're dealing.
- Shred all documents, including preapproved credit applications, insurance forms, and bank statements.
- Create hard to guess passwords that cannot be found in any dictionary.
- Do not put your credit card account number or social security number on checks.
- Use caution when entering your PIN number in any ATM machine.
- Never submit your credit card number to a website unless it is encrypted on a secure site. Look at the bottom of the screen for a padlock symbol to be safe.



## Important Numbers

**Experian** [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
1-800-Experian ( 397-3742 ) or write to:  
P.O. Box 9352 Allen, TX. 75013

**Equifax** [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
1-800-525-6285 or write to:  
P.O. Box 740241 Atlanta, GA. 30374

**Trans Union** [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
1-800-680-7289 or write to:  
Fraud Victim Assistance Division  
P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA. 92634

**United States Postal Inspectors** [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)  
*Investigates mail fraud and fraudulent applications for credit mail.*  
Orlando Office 407-850-6388

**Federal Trade Commission** [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)  
1-877-382-4357

### **Tele-Check**

*Problems with checking accounts frauds and opened accounts.*  
1-800-366-2425

**Consumer Credit Counseling Service**  
*Advice and direction to the victim*  
1-800-388-2227

**United States Secret Service**  
**U.S. Treasury** [www.secretservice.gov](http://www.secretservice.gov)  
*Investigates account takeovers and fraudulent use of social security numbers*  
1-800-269-0271