

Quick Tips

- Keep ID's, Social Security Cards, credit cards, and other documents secure
- Do not give out your SSN or account numbers to parties you do not know
- Shred documents with account or personal information
- Overwrite or destroy old computer hard drives
- Check yours and your kids credit reports yearly
- Check account statements regularly for any unusual activity
- Do not trust emails or phone calls stating your information has been compromised or the need to "verify" your information
- Trust your instincts; if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- **Report all incidents of identity theft to the Sioux City Police Dept or your local agency if not in Sioux City**



Sioux City Police Department

Crime Prevention

601 Douglas St
Sioux City, IA 51101
Phone: 712-279-6411
Cell: 712-898-4537
www.siouxcitypolice.com



Sioux City Police Department

Crime Prevention is Your Job Too

IDENTITY THEFT



**Tips on protecting
your good name**

Tel: 712-279-6440



Protecting Against Identity Theft

Identity theft is a growing crime

Thieves steal another person's personal information and use it to get credit cards, loans, and can even use the information to steal from the victim.

Many victims discover that they have had their identities stolen long after the crime is committed when they are denied credit or start receiving bills for accounts they did not open.

A victim may spend up to 600 hours working to undo the damage done by identity theft.

Many thieves collect a victims personal information through traditional methods of theft. They steal wallets and purses, mail, and break into houses and cars.

There are simple steps that you can following to protect yourself and your family.

Protecting Your Identity

Protect your purse or wallet from theft. Do not leave it unattended in your car. Keep it in the bedroom with you at night.

Shred documents with personal information with a cross-cut shredder. Many shredders are moderately priced from \$30 to \$50.

Keep track of extra checks, credit cards, and other financial instruments. One of the most common method of identity theft is still using stolen checks.

Ensure the website you are purchasing items from is a secure website. In the address bar, "https:" should be displayed. The "s" indicates that the site is secure. There will also be a picture of a padlock in the address bar or the lower right hand corner of the screen.

Use a mailbox that is secured with a lock. Thieves have been known to steal mail from victims. Mail bill payments using secure USPS blue drop boxes.

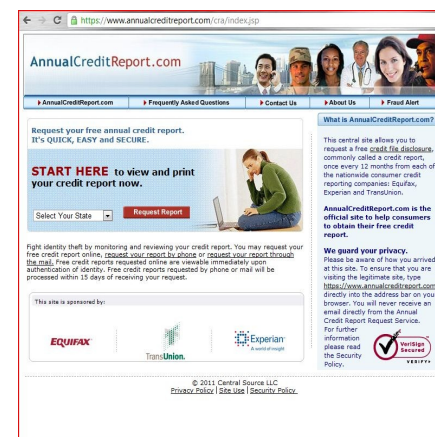
Do not give your personal information to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the call. Many thieves will call and use deceptive tactics to get your information.

Thieves will "phish" for victims using email. They will send messages that your accounts need to be verified and provide links to "verify" your information. Do NOT trust them. Call your bank or credit card company using the number you know is theirs.

Check your bank accounts, credit card statements, and other accounts frequently to ensure that all the activity is legitimate. Check your credit report once a year. Also, check your children's as thieves have stolen kids identities as well.

Free Credit Report

You are guaranteed a free credit report once a year from all three credit reporting agencies.



Log on to www.annualcreditreport.com to obtain your free report from all three agencies. This is the website they established for obtaining your report.

You can also call 1-877-322-8228 to request your report. A verification process will be completed over the phone and your reports mailed to you.