



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Lake County, Illinois

MARK C. CURRAN, JR.
SHERIFF
RAYMOND J. ROSE
UNDERSHERIFF

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Phone: (847) 377-4000
Fax: (847) 360-5796

EMERGENCY
DIAL 911

DIVISIONS

Civil Process
(847) 377-4400

Communications
(847) 549-5200

Community
Service
(847) 377-4211

Court Security
(847) 377-4911

Criminal
Investigations
(847) 377-4250

Emergency
Management
Agency
(847) 377-7100

Highway Patrol
(847) 377-7020

Jail
(847) 377-4150

Judicial Sales
(847) 377-4401

Marine Unit
(847) 587-4471

Records
(847) 377-4200

Training
(847) 377-4350

Warrants
(847) 377-4300

Work Release
(847) 377-4450

Identity Theft Information

Identity theft occurs when a criminal obtains and uses someone else's personal information, such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, and social security number to purchase goods and services fraudulently. There are 5 basic methods in which this can occur: **Telephone Solicitation, Internet, Debit Card/ Credit Card, Personal interaction and Document Collection.** Any of these methods can cause the victim to spend hours working with creditors, credit reporting agencies, financial institutions and law enforcement to reclaim their good names and credit records. The recovery process can take months and sometimes even years.

In order to prevent this don't give out your social security number unless necessary – and don't carry your card in your purse or wallet. Carry only the ID and credit cards you need. Don't give personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call. Don't transmit personal information over the Internet unless it is a secure site, and don't reveal personal information in e-mails or discussion forums. Mail outgoing bills at the post office; don't put them in your home mailbox. Empty your mailbox as soon as possible. Shred documents containing personal information before discarding. Know when your account statements are mailed, and report discrepancies and late or missing statements.

If you believe you are a victim of Identity Theft, **File a police report.** Illinois law requires police departments to accept and provide reports. Get a copy of the police report or at least the report number. **Report fraud to creditors.** Check with credit card companies and banks to see if any new accounts have been opened in your name or if any unauthorized charges have been made. Also, consider closing open bank accounts and reopening them with new ones. **Place a fraud alert on your credit report.** Contact the toll-free number of any of the three consumer reporting agencies, listed below, to place a fraud alert on your credit report. **Get a Free Credit Report.** Order a copy of your credit report every year from the three credit reporting agencies to check for errors.

Credit Agencies:

- **Equifax:** (800)-525-6285; www.equifax.com; P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241
- **Experian:** (888)-EXPERIAN (888-397-3742); www.experian.com; P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013
- **TransUnion:** (800)-680-7289; www.transunion.com; Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

Illinois Attorney General Identity Theft Hotline: (866)-999-5630; TTY: (877)-844-5461 (M-F, 8:30am-5:00pm)

Free Credit Report: (877)-322-8228; TTY: (877)-730-4104; www.annualcreditreport.com

“SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LAKE COUNTY WITH PRIDE”