

Quick Guide to ID Theft & Fraud Resources

VICARS: Victim's Initiative for Counseling, Advocacy and Restoration of the Southwest

815 Brazos, Suite 1100
Austin, TX 78701
www.idvictim.org
1-888-343-4414

FTC's Consumer Response Center

1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338)
Consumer Response Center
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20580
www.ftc.gov

FTC On-line Protection

www.onguardonline.gov

Texas Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
PO Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

For Fraud:

www.oag.state.tx.us

Go to Consumer Protection Tab

For ID Theft:

www.texasfightsidtheft.gov

Check Your Credit

Report For Free

www.annualcreditreport.com

Identity Theft Resource Center

www.idtheftcenter.org

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

www.privacyrights.org

Money Scam Prevention

www.fakechecks.org

National Consumer's League Fraud Center

www.fraud.org
1-800-876-7060

Do Not Call List

www.donotcall.gov
1-888- 382-1222

Opt Out of Credit Offers

1-888-567-8688

Before you donate, check to see if the charity is legitimate

www.charitywatch.org:
773-529-2300

GuideStar

www.guidestar.org

Report SPAM

Email: spam@uce.gov

MediCare Info

www.medicare.gov
1-800-633-4227



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- Identity theft occurs when an impostor uses the personal identifying information of another to gain something of value or facilitate other criminal activity. Personal identifying information includes one's name, current or prior address(es), date of birth, Social Security number, drivers' license or other ID number, bank account or credit card numbers, and other unique identifiers.
- According to the FTC's 2007 Texas ranks 4th in the nation for per capita ID theft complaints. Brownsville and McAllen are in the top five cities for per capita identity theft complaints nationally, and Laredo ranks number 12.
- In 2007 there were 67,163 reported cases of ID theft in Texas.
- There was a combined loss of \$105,343,306 to victims of ID theft and financial fraud in Texas in 2007.
- In 2006, 11% of the populace was hit by ID theft, and 24% of reported crimes in Texas involved ID theft.
- Young adults aged 18-29 are nearly twice as likely to become victims of identity theft than other age groups.
- There is no way that a consumer can completely prevent identity theft; however, consumers can minimize their chances of becoming victims by taking a few easy steps to guard their personal information: shred mail and other documents that contain personal information, use a locked mail box, get on the "no call" list, ask to be removed from marketing lists, and never give personal information in relation to a transaction that you did not initiate.
- If someone is a victim of identity theft it is crucial to notify the major credit reporting agencies Equifax, TransUnion and Experian immediately. Identity theft is a crime! All victims need to make a police report as soon as possible. During the recovery process people will need a police report to remove illegitimate debts and close false accounts. Recovering from an ID theft is a slow and tedious process. It can also be emotionally overwhelming. There are a lot of legitimate resources out there and people should not hesitate to seek them out for help.



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