



# Prevent Identity Theft

## What is identity theft?

Identity theft is a criminal offense that occurs when a person steals key pieces of personal identifying information belonging to another person to gain access to that person's financial accounts.

## Protect yourself from identity theft:

- Order your credit report annually for free ([annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com)).
- Password protect all accounts.
- Be suspicious and protective when asked to provide personal information (address, DOB, SSN, mother's maiden name, etc).
- Monitor bank, billing and credit statements for discrepancies.

## The Do's and Don'ts of Identity Theft Prevention

- **Do** report lost or stolen credit cards immediately.
- **Do** memorize your Social Security number, passwords and pin numbers
- **Do** contact your financial institution for information on a personal firewalled account for internet use.
- **Do** beware of mail and telephone solicitations.
- **Do** watch your monthly statements and bills.
- **Don't** use your date of birth as your password
- **Don't** leave transaction receipts at ATM machines, financial institutions or at gas pumps.
- **Don't** carry your Social Security card or birth certificate with you.
- **Don't** disclose credit card information on websites, unless the web site offers a secure transaction.

## You are a Victim of Identity Theft. What Should You Do Immediately?

- Call local police.  
**Dispatch: 360.704.2740**
- Contact your nearest U.S. Postal Inspection Service Office (if the crime involved the U.S. Mail).
- Close all affected accounts.
- Call the fraud units of the three major credit bureaus and request a "fraud alert" be place on your account (See "Resources" on back page).
- Order copies of your credit report to check whether any fraudulent accounts were opened without your knowledge or consent.
- Contact your local banks and creditors by phone and in writing, and report the crime.
- Contact your financial institutions and request that they flag your accounts.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).
- Record the names and phone numbers of people with whom you discussed your case
- Retain all original reports and supporting documents.

## Resources

### Local Law Enforcement:

Non-Emergency Dispatch	360.704.2740
Olympia Police Department	360.753.8300
Lacey Police Department	360.459.4333
Tumwater Police Department	360.754.4200
Sheriff's Office (Thurston County)	360.786.5500

### Credit Reporting Agencies:

Equifax Credit Bureau (www.equifax.com)	1.800.525.6285
Experian Information Solutions (www.experian.com)	1.888.397.3742
Trans Union Credit Bureau (www.tuc.com)	1.800.680.7289

### Federal Government Agencies:

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) (www.consumer.ftc.gov)	1.877.IDTHEFT
Olympia Area Post Offices	1.800.275.8777
US Postal Inspection (www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov)	1.877.876.2455
Social Security Administration (www.ssa.gov.)	1.800.269.0271

**Free Credit Report:** [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

**Crime Victims Advocacy Network:** [www.cvan11.org](http://www.cvan11.org) or  
1.866.711.2826

**National Organization for Victim Assistance:** [www.trynova.org](http://www.trynova.org) or  
1.800.TRY.NOVA

*Deaf, hard of hearing or deaf/blind persons can access the above numbers through relay (711).*

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. CS\_IdentityTheft-PO-JT\_2014.

*The mission of the Olympia Police Department is to consistently earn the trust of the residents and visitors in our community. We accomplish our mission through a team approach to proactive policing, corrections, community education and support services. We are recognized as being compassionate, respectful, highly-trained, innovative, and as people who are dedicated to making a positive difference in the City of Olympia.*



## Olympia Police Department

Main Office: 360.753.8300  
[olympiapolice@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:olympiapolice@ci.olympia.wa.us)  
601 4th Avenue East  
P.O. Box 1967  
Olympia, WA 98507-1967