

If You Suspect Identity Theft

- Report it to local police and request a copy of the report;
- File a complaint with the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) at 1-877-438-4338;
- **Immediately** contact your bank and close affected accounts;
- Contact credit card companies;
- Place fraud alerts on all accounts by calling:
Equifax
1-800-525-6285
Experian (formerly TRW)
1-888-397-3742
Transunion
1-800-680-7289
- Keep a detailed log of who you have contacted and copies of all correspondence.

Elder Resource

Contacts

Elder Helpline

1-800-96-ELDER
(1-800-963-5337)

Department of Financial Services

Consumer Hotline

1-800-342-2762

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Hotline

1-800-435-7352

Senior Legal Helpline

1-888-895-7873

TDD

(for hearing impaired)

Elder Abuse Hotline number

1-800-453-5145

Elder Helpline number

1-800-955-8771



This brochure is published by the statewide Triad to provide basic consumer information to help prevent Florida's elderly from becoming victims of identity theft. It is not intended as a substitute for legal advice.

Prevent Identity Theft

Tips to Reduce Risk



Florida Triad

A Crime Prevention and Intervention Program

Minimize the Risk of Becoming a Victim of Identity Theft

NEVER

- Carry a Social Security card;
- Carry multiple credit cards;
- Give personal information over the telephone;
- Print identification numbers on checks; or
- Answer unsolicited e-mail that requests personal information.



ALWAYS

- Look for due dates on financial statements and bills;
- Remove mail promptly from your mailbox;
- Review statements and bills promptly;
- Shred personal mail and information with a shredder or scissors;
- Stop mail while you are on vacation;
- Make a copy of all items in your wallet and keep with personal papers in a safe place; and
- Shop online only with merchants with secure sites. A graphic, typically a lock, should appear in the bottom right corner of your browser bar.
- Have checks printed with initials only and no street address. Pick up your checks at the bank, if possible.

YOU CAN

- Remove your name from tele-marketing lists by registering your phone number with the Federal Trade Commission's National DO NOT CALL Registry. Call toll-free 1-888-382-1222;
- Request credit reports annually from all three reporting agencies at no fee by visiting on the Web at www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228;
- Remove your name from receiving firm offers of credit or credit insurance based on credit reports, call 1-888-567-8688. The program is called Optout. You will be asked to provide your social security number!

