



IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft complaints across the nation continue to rise with law enforcement being inundated with reports from both citizens and businesses alike. Law enforcement in Wisconsin is tasked in determining as to whether or not a report should be taken and who would have jurisdiction in the complaint.

Law Enforcement by statute is required to follow certain guidelines when faced with Identity Theft. The following procedures are used when a complaint is initiated:

If an individual reports to a law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the individual resides and it appears that personal identifying documentation of that person is being used or in possession of another in either that jurisdiction or that of another agency, the agency where the individual resides shall take the initial report.

If the documentation is being used in another jurisdiction, the officer should determine the location of the violation and contact that jurisdiction establishing a contact for the victim. The report should then be forwarded to that jurisdiction.

If an agency contacts the Appleton Police Department stating that documentation of a victim is being used in our jurisdiction, the Officer assigned will contact the victim. A complaint will be initiated at that time.

Identity Theft involves the transfer or use of a means of identifying another which may be used to obtain money, goods, services, or any other thing of value or benefit; or it can be used to initiate a transfer of funds.

Examples of personal information:

- Individuals Name/Address/Phone Number
- Social Security Number
- Employer/Employee ID Number
- Banking Information
- DNA Profile
- Mother's Maiden Name

Ways to prevent/minimize Identity Theft:

- Shred All Documents Containing Personal Information That Is Being Disposed
- Document Credit Cards Kept In Purse/Wallet Including Phone Numbers For Each To Report Lost/Stolen
- Only Keep Those Credit Cards In Purse/Wallet You Intend To Use
- Contact The Three Credit Bureaus Yearly Checking Your Credit History For Discrepancies
- Report Any Fraudulent Transactions To Credit Bureaus
- Do Not Carry Social Security Card In Wallet
- Do Not List Pre-Printed Driver's License Number On Checks
- Do Not Give Social Security Number To Anyone Over The Phone
- Do Not Have Credit/ATM Card PIN Numbers Written In Purse/Wallet

It is important to remember that a victim needs a police report to have the fraudulent transactions removed from their credit history and place alerts on their accounts.

Please check the following links for more information regarding Identity Theft

Identity Theft-Consumer Information-Federal Trade Commission

<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>

Identity Theft-United States Postal Inspection Service

<https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/investigations/mailfraud/fraudschemes/mailtheft/identitytheft.aspx>

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection – Office of Privacy Protection

http://www.privacy.wi.gov/Consumer/Office_of_Privacy_Protection/index.aspx