

Fighting Back Against Identity Theft

Federal Trade Commission DETER. DETECT. DEFEND.

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information such as your name, social security number or credit card number, without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. Early detection of potential identity theft can make a big difference. Keep an eye out for suspicious activity by regularly monitoring your financial statements and credit reports.

What steps should you take if you become a victim of identity theft?

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports, and review your credit reports.
2. Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
3. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.
4. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.



The Federal Trade Commission's website on identity theft is a one-stop resource to learn more, as well as provide detailed information to help deter, detect and defend yourself against identity theft.

Visit the FTC's site at:
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

