

Identity Theft Victim's Packet

Information and Instructions

This packet should be completed once you have contacted your Police Department and obtained a police report number related to your identity theft case. To obtain a police reports contact your police department. Please keep track of your report number, as creditors, financial institutions and credit reporting agencies will ask for it.

My Police Department Report is:

_____

This packet is for you to keep and contains information to assist you in the correction of your credit and to help ensure that you are not responsible for the debts incurred by the identity thief. In addition, this packet includes information that will allow you to obtain financial records related to the fraudulent accounts and provide those records to law enforcement, without which we cannot conduct an investigation for prosecution. We recognize that some victims are only interested in the correction of their credit and do not necessarily wish for prosecution; therefore, we request that you only submit this packet to your Police Department if you desire prosecution.

It is important to understand that in the event that a suspect is identified and arrested and the case proceeds to court, you as the victim would mostly likely be required to appear and testify in court.

You will need to complete the dispute letters and provide us with necessary documentation before we can begin investigating your case for prosecution. Examples of the document evidence we need are on the last page of this packet. Without document evidence, we cannot begin the investigation. Please write your report number on copies of documents you send us. In identity theft cases it is difficult to identify the suspect(s) as they often use inaccurate information such as addresses and phone numbers. Frequently the investigator cannot find evidence to prove who actually used the victim's name and/or personal information over the phone or Internet. *** It is important to note that even if the suspect cannot be identified for prosecution, it will not affect your ability to correct the fraudulent accounts and remove them from your credit. *** Furthermore, when you report your identity crime to your Police Department, all of the relevant information from your case is entered into our database, which will allow us to cross-reference your report with potential suspects who are involved in or arrested on other cases.

NOTE:

- If you suspect someone is using your personal information for employment and there is no evidence of other identity fraud, please see the section for contacting the Social Security Administration under Additional Useful Information. Do not contact the employer directly as they may warn the suspect employee.
- If your name and/or information is used by someone else to avoid a traffic ticket or any criminal prosecution, please contact the agency investigating the original crime. It may not be necessary to complete this packet.

Helpful Hints:

- *Remember that each creditor has different policies and procedures for correcting fraudulent accounts.*
- *Do not provide originals and be sure to keep copies of everything you provide to the creditors or companies involved in the identity theft.*
- *Write down all dates, times and the names of individuals you speak to regarding the identity theft and correction of your credit.*

Step 1: Contact your bank and other credit card issuers.

If the theft involved **existing bank accounts** (checking or savings accounts as well as credit or debit card) you should do the following:

- Close the account that was used fraudulently or put stop payments on all outstanding checks that might have been written without your knowledge.
- Close all credit card accounts that were used fraudulently.
- Close any account accessible by debit card if it has been accessed fraudulently.
- Open up new accounts protected with a secret password or personal identification number (PIN)

If the identity theft involved the creation of **new bank accounts**, you should do the following:

- Call the involved financial institution and notify them of the identity theft.
- They will likely require additional notification in writing. (see step 4)

Step 2: Contact all three (3) major credit reporting bureaus.

First request the credit bureaus place a "Fraud Alert" on your file. A fraud alert will put a notice on your credit report that you have been the victim of identity theft. Merchants and financial institutions **may** opt to contact you directly before any new credit is taken out in your name. **Some states allow for a Security Freeze in which a PIN can be designated on your credit file and subsequently the PIN must then be given in order for credit to be extended. Ask the credit reporting bureaus if your state is participating in the Security Freeze Program.**

www.scamsafe.com – provides useful information related to identity theft and indicates which states participate in the Security Freeze program.

www.annualcreditreport.com – provides one free credit report, per credit bureau agency, per year, with subsequent credit reports available at a nominal fee.

The following is a list of the three (3) major credit-reporting bureaus for victims to report fraud:

Equifax TransUnion Experian

Consumer Fraud Division Fraud Victim Assistance Dept Nat. Consumer Assist

800-525-6285 800-680-7289 888-397-3742

P.O. Box 740256 P.O. Box 6790 P.O. Box 9530

Atlanta, GA 30374 Fullerton, CA 92834 Allen, TX 75013

Step 3: File a report with the Federal Trade Commission.

You can go on-line to file an identity theft complaint with the FTC at www.FTC.gov and click on the Id Theft icon or by calling **1-877-IDTHEFT**.

Step 4: Contact creditors involved in the Identity Theft by phone and in writing.

This step involves contacting all the companies or institutions that provided credit or opened new accounts for the suspect or suspects. Some examples include banks, mortgage companies, utility companies, telephone companies, cell phone companies, etc. Provide the creditors with the completed Identity Theft Affidavit (some may require that you use their own affidavit), Letter of Dispute, and a copy of the FACTA Law.

FTC Identity Theft Affidavit A copy of the FTC Identity Theft Affidavit can be found at the end of this packet. This is the same affidavit that the FTC makes available to victims of identity theft. The affidavit requests information regarding you as the victim, how the fraud occurred, law enforcement's actions, documentation checklist and Fraudulent Account Statement. NOTE. Some creditors, financial institutions, or collection agencies have their own affidavit that you may have to complete.

Letters of Dispute Sample copies of the Letters of Dispute can also be found at the end of this packet. **This letter needs to be completed for every creditor involved in the identity theft.** The letter of dispute should contain information related to the fraudulent account(s), your dispute of the account(s), and your request for the information to be corrected. In addition, the

letter should reference FACTA and make a request for copies of any and all records related to the fraudulent accounts be provided to you and made available to your Police Department.

FACTA Law A portion of the FACTA Law can also be found at the end of this packet. As previously discussed in this packet, FACTA allows for you to obtain copies of any and all records related to the fraudulent accounts. You are then permitted to provide law enforcement with copies of the records you received related to the fraudulent accounts; thereby allowing us to bypass the sometimes difficult process of obtaining subpoenas for the very same information. It also allows you to request the information be made available to your Police Department. We have found it useful to provide a copy of the FACTA Law with the submission of the Identity Theft Affidavit and Letter of Dispute to the individual creditors.

Step 5: Submit the Identity Theft Affidavit AND copies of all information and records obtained from the creditors with regard to the fraudulent accounts to:

Your Police Department – ATTN The officer' Name

To avoid confusion and to ensure that all items are forwarded to the assigned detective, we request that you submit everything at once and if possible do not send items separately. **Be sure to write your police report number on all items submitted.** The types of document evidence needed are listed on the next page. The information can be hand delivered or mailed. **Please remember that some victims are only interested in the correction of their credit and do not necessarily wish for prosecution. Therefore, we request that you only submit this packet to your Police Department if you desire prosecution and would be willing and available to appear and testify in court should a suspect be identified and arrested.**

******You will be contacted by a detective only if the document evidence you submit leads to the identification and prosecution of a suspect.*******

Additional Useful Information -

Post Office – *If you suspect that your mail has been stolen or diverted with a false change-of-address request, contact your local postal inspector. You can obtain the address and telephone number of the postal inspector for your area at United States Postal Service website: <http://www.usps.com/ncsc/locators/findis.html> or by calling 800-275-8777.*

Social Security Administration – *If you suspect that someone is using your social security number to obtain employment, contact the Social Security Administration's fraud hotline at 1-800-269-0271. Order a copy of your Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (PEBES) to check the accuracy of your work history on file with the Social Security Administration. You can obtain a PEBES application at your local Social Security office or at <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-7004.pdf>.*

Internal Revenue Service – *The IRS Office of Special Investigations can be contacted at www.irs.gov to report false tax filings, potential criminal violations of the Internal Revenue Code and related financial crimes.*

If you are contacted by a collection agency - *about a debt for which you are not responsible, immediately notify them that you did not create the debt and that you are a victim of identity theft. Follow up with the collection agency and creditor in writing and include a copy of your police report, ID Theft Affidavit, Letter of Dispute and a copy of the FACTA Law.*

Documentation for Prosecution

The following items of evidence should be obtained by the victim. Using the sample dispute letters to dispute charges and requesting all documentation related to the account(s). Without this document evidence, we will not be able to begin an investigation.

• If your existing accounts are being accessed, please obtain the following types of documents:

Bank statements or bills showing where the transactions occurred

- Please circle or underline the fraudulent transactions
- Using a highlighter may make it impossible to read photocopies
- Please attempt to obtain a physical address for the transactions from your bank.

Bills from companies showing merchandise ordered

- Addresses where items were delivered
- What phone numbers were associated with the order

Any information from the creditor that shows how or where the account was used

The name and phone number of any representatives from the businesses you deal with

• If new accounts have been opened in your name please obtain the following:

Bank statements that you may have received for accounts that are not yours

Credit reports showing the accounts that are not yours

- Please circle or underline all accounts that are not yours
- Using a highlighter may make it impossible to read photocopies

Bills from utilities companies for accounts you did not open

Letters or documentation from creditors or utilities companies that contain

- Copies of applications for credit
- How the account was opened. (in person, over the phone, on internet)
- Where the account was opened if done in person
- Where the account is being used (addresses of transactions)
- Address where any cards, bills, merchandise or correspondence was mailed.
- Any phone numbers associated with the fraudulent account

The name or employee number and phone number of any representatives from the businesses you deal with.

• If someone is using your personal information for employment we will need:

Copies of Department of Economic Security or Social Security Administration report showing your information being used for employment in Phoenix.

If only your Social Security Number is being used for employment, please provide a **stamped** social security number verification letter from the Social Security Administration that verifies the social security number in question is assigned to you.

If only a partial account number is listed on the document, please write the entire number on the copy you send to us.

ID Theft Affidavit

My full legal name is _____

1. My full legal name is _____

(First) (Middle) (Last) (Jr., Sr., III)

2. (If different from above) When the events described in this affidavit took place, I was known as _____

(First) (Middle) (Last) (Jr., Sr., III)

3. My date of birth is _____ (day/month/year)

4. My Social Security Number is _____

5. My driver's license or identification card state and number are _____

6. My current address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

7. I have lived at this address since _____ (month/year)

8. (If different from above) When the events described in this affidavit took place, my address was _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

9. I lived at the address in Item 8 from _____ until _____ (month/year)

10. My daytime telephone number is (____) _____

My evening telephone number is (____) _____

Check all that apply for items 11 – 17:

11. ___ I did not authorize anyone to use my name or personal information to seek the money, credit, loans, goods or services described in this report.

12. ___ I did not receive any benefit, money, goods or services as a result of the events described in this report.

13. ___ My identification documents (for example, credit cards; birth certificates; driver's license; Social Security card; etc.) were: stolen lost on or about _____ (day/month/year)

14. ___ To the best of my knowledge and belief, the following person(s) used my information (for example, my name, address, date of birth, existing account numbers, Social Security number, mother's maiden name, etc.) or identification documents to get money, credit, loans, goods or services without my knowledge or authorization:

Name (if known) Name (if known)

Address (if known) Address (if known)

Phone number(s) (if known) Phone number(s) (if known)

Additional information Additional information

15. ___ I do NOT know who used my information or identification documents to get money, credit, loans, goods or services without my knowledge or authorization.

16. ___ Additional comments: (For example, description of the fraud, which documents or information were used or how the identity thief gained access to your information) Attach additional pages if necessary.

Name _____ Phone _____

Page2

17. (check only one)

I am willing to assist in the prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.

I am NOT willing to assist in the prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.

18. (check only one)

I am authorizing the release of this information to law enforcement for the purposes of assisting them in the investigation and prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.

I am NOT authorizing the release of this information to law enforcement for the purposes of assisting them in the investigation and prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.

19. (check all that apply)

I have reported the events described in this affidavit to the police or other law enforcement agency.

I have not reported the events described in this affidavit to the police or other law enforcement agency.

The police did write a report.

The police did not write a report.

In the event you have contacted the police or other law enforcement agency please complete the following information:

(Agency #1) (Officer/Agency personnel taking report)

(Date of Report) (Report number, if any)

(Phone number) (email address, if any)

(Agency #2) (Officer/Agency personnel taking report)

(Date of Report) (Report number, if any)

(Phone number) (email address, if any)

Please indicate the supporting documentation you are able to provide to the companies you plan notify. Attach copies (NOT originals) to the affidavit before sending it to the companies.

20. A copy of a valid government-issued photo-identification card (for example, your driver's license, state-issued ID card, or your passport.) If you are under 16 and don't have a photo-ID, you may submit a copy of your birth certificate or a copy of your official school records showing your enrollment and place of residence.

21. Proof of residency during the time the disputed bill occurred, the loan was made or the other event took place (for example, a rental/lease agreement in your name, a copy of a utility bill or a copy of an insurance bill.

Name _____ Phone _____

22. A copy of the report filed with the police or sheriff's department. If you are unable to obtain a report or report number from the police, please indicate that in Item 19. Some companies only need the report number, not a copy of the report. You may want to check with each company.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information on and attached to this affidavit is true, correct, and complete and made in good faith. I also understand that this affidavit or the information it contains may be made available to federal, state, and/or local law enforcement agencies for such action within their jurisdiction as they deem appropriate. I understand that knowingly making any false or fraudulent statement or representation to the government may constitute a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 or other federal, state or local criminal statutes, and may result in imposition of a fine or imprisonment or both.

(signature) (date signed)

(Notary)

[Check with each company. Creditors sometimes require notarization. If they do not, please have one witness (non-relative) sign below that you completed and signed this affidavit.]

Witness:

(signature) (printed name)

(date) (telephone number)

Name _____ Phone _____

Completing the Statement

- Make as many copies of this page as you need. Complete a separate page for each company you're notifying and only send it to that company. Include a copy of your signed affidavit.
- List only the account(s) you're disputing with the company receiving this form. See the example below.
- If a collection agency sent you a statement, letter or notice about the fraudulent account, attach a copy of that document (NOT the original).

I declare (check all that apply):

_____ As a result of the event(s) described in the ID Theft Affidavit, the following account(s) was/were opened at your company in my name without my knowledge, permission or authorization using my personal information or identifying documents:

Example
Example National Bank
22 Main Street
Columbus, OH 22722
01234567-89
Auto Loan
01/05/2002
\$25,500.00

During the time of the accounts described above, I had the following account open with your company:

Billing name:

Billing address:

Account number:

Sample Dispute Letter

Date
Your Name
Your Address, City, State, Zip Code

Complaint Department
Name of Company
Address
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to dispute the following information in my file. I have circled the items I dispute on the attached copy of the report I received. This item (identify item(s) disputed by name of source, such as creditors or tax court, and identify type of item, such as credit account, judgment, etc.) is (inaccurate or incomplete) because (describe what is inaccurate or incomplete and why). I am requesting that the item be removed (or request another specific change) to correct the information.

Enclosed are copies of (use this sentence if applicable and describe any enclosed documentation, such as a police report, Identity Theft Affidavit, payment records, court documents) supporting my position. Please reinvestigate this (these) matter(s) and (delete or correct) the disputed item(s) as soon as possible. In addition, pursuant to FACTA, as a victim of identity theft I am requesting that you provide me with copies of any and all applications and business transaction records related to the fraudulent account(s). The copies of the records can be (mailed to me at the address listed below or faxed to the number listed below). **In addition, please make these records available to law enforcement upon their request.**

Sincerely,
Your name
Enclosures: (List what you are enclosing.)