

Identity Theft

In 2005 alone, more than 250,000 people filed identity theft complaints. Of those records, more than one-quarter stemmed from stolen credit card information. If this happens to you, time is of the essence. Taking certain steps quickly can minimize the damage. Here are some resources to help you become better informed on what to do and whom to call.

AARP

An article from AARP detailing 8 Tips to Avoid Identity Theft

Federal Trade Commission

This website is a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft.

An **FTC** free publication entitled: "Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft"

Identity Theft Resource Center

This national nonprofit organization focuses exclusively on identity theft.

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

This is a nonprofit consumer organization with a two-part mission -- consumer information and consumer advocacy.

The Three Consumer Credit Reporting Companies

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; <http://www.equifax.com/>; P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742); <http://www.experian.com/>; P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; <http://www.transunion.com/>; Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790