

Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when a person takes another person's identifying information to commit theft or fraud.



What can you do?

Place passwords on all your important accounts

Avoid using obvious passwords such as telephone numbers, birth dates or your mother's maiden name. Don't use the same password on different accounts.

Secure your personal information

Secure all personal information at home in a lockable filing cabinet or safe.

Don't carry personal information unless needed

Never carry your PIN in your wallet with the ATM card. Don't carry documents like your passport or birth certificate unless you have to.

Destroy personal information before disposal

Before discarding old bills, records or expired cards, ensure that any identifying information is destroyed. Home shredders can be a good investment.

Avoid providing personal information by phone, mail or on-line

Make sure you know who you are dealing with before you give out personal information.

Secure your mail

Make sure you have a secure, lockable letterbox and only post mail at official post boxes.

Check your billing and account records carefully

By checking all transactions on your banking and credit card accounts you may detect potential identity theft early. Follow up if your bills or accounts don't arrive on time.

List all your account details

Make a list of all your accounts, credit cards and relevant contact details. Keep this list in a safe place. If you lose your wallet or purse, notify your bank immediately.

There are a number of very simple safeguards you can take to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft.

Identity theft and fraud have become one of the fastest growing crimes in the world. It can happen quickly and easily and most often you will not even know you are a victim until well after the fact.

REMEMBER: Unsolicited offers that seem too good to be true or require you to give out bank account details or other personal information are likely to be scams.

For more information go to
www.police.qld.gov.au

Follow the links to
crime prevention



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