

Town of Charlestown

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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IDENTITY THEFT

Information & Reference Guide

If you have been the victim of identity theft or have concerns about it, you should take certain steps to protect yourself to minimize the consequences. The Charlestown Police Department takes identity theft very serious, however our ability to find and prosecute offenders is very limited. Many times victims are left with the burden of resolving these problems themselves with little guidance from local authorities. We have developed this guide to assist you in reporting these crimes to the proper authorities and to assist you with correcting the damage. This guide will also provide you with advice to protect you from future identity theft.

PREVENTION & AWARENESS !!

Never give your personal information out over the phone or internet if you are contacted or emailed.

Beware of mail or telephone calls offering you promotions or prizes. **IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT USUALLY IS !!**

Remove all mail from your mailbox as soon as possible. Mail your out-going mail at the post office or at a secure mailbox.

Shred all paperwork with any personal information on it. Also shred any pre-approved credit card applications.

Closely review all your bills and statements for any discrepancies and questionable activity. If you did not get your regular statement, call and ask why. It could have been stolen.

Do not write down passwords and never give your passwords to anyone. Regularly change your passwords.

Update your computer regularly and utilize an anti-virus program. Never leave your laptop unattended and be cautious of open Wi-Fi connections at certain businesses and establishments.

TYPES OF IDENTITY THEFT

1. Financial: Theft of your credit information, bank accounts & savings accounts.
2. Social Security: Theft of your tax return or filing for a return under your name.
3. Identity Cloning: A person living their life under your name and credit.
4. Criminal: A person committing crimes under your name and giving your name to police.

IF YOU HAVE BECOME A VICTIM

Follow Check List

- ___ Contact the Charlestown Police Department to report the theft and obtain a case #.
- ___ Contact the three major credit agencies to have them put a “fraud alert” on your credit.
- ___ Contact the I.R.S. Identity Theft Unit to report the theft and receive instructions.
- ___ Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the theft and receive instructions.
- ___ Contact the Social Security Fraud Hotline to report the theft and receive instructions.
- ___ Contact the Rhode Island Attorney General’s office to report the fraud activity.

- ___ Set up a folder to keep a detailed history of the crime. Keep a log of all contacts.
- ___ Print hard copies of all evidence and documentations associated with the theft.
- ___ Change all your passwords, apply for new credit and debit card numbers.
- ___ Monitor all your credit information for any further theft or discrepancies.

TELEPHONE NUMERS AND WEBSITES:

Credit Agencies: Equifax: 800-525-6285, Experian: 888-397-3742, TransUnion: 800-680-7289

I.R.S. Hotline: I.R.S. Identity Theft Unit: 800-908-4490 www.IRS.gov

Federal Trade: Federal Trade Commission hotline: 877-438-4338 www.FTC.gov/IDtheft

Social Security: Social Security Fraud hotline: 800-269-0271 oig.ssa.gov

R.I. Attor. Gen: R.I. Attorney General hotline: 401-274-4400 www.riag.ri.gov

Charlestown Police Department initial report

Your Report Number is: _____ Your Reporting Date is: _____

Your Reporting Officer is: _____