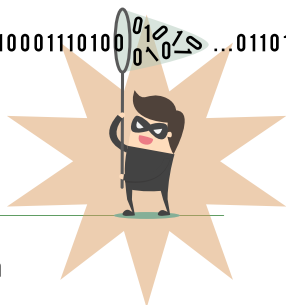




# Protect Yourself from **Identity Theft**

Resources and Tips to  
stay one step ahead of  
would be thieves

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[alleghenycontroller.com](http://alleghenycontroller.com)

# What to do if you are an **Identity Theft Victim?**

- Reach out to ALL three major credit bureaus to place a “**fraud alert**” on your reports
- Contact your local police department and file a report
- Any accounts that have been tampered with or fraudulently opened should be frozen and/or closed
- Make sure you use different passwords and PIN's when registering for a new account
- If you suspect a thief has been using checks, contact SCAN at **1.800.262.7771**
- If your information was stolen during an online purchase, file a complaint with the FTC at **1.877.438.4338** or **consumer.gov/idtheft**



## **EQUIFAX**

1.800.525.6285

equifax.com

PO Box 740271

Atlanta, GA 30374-0241



## **EXPERIAN**

1.888.397.3742

experian.com

PO Box 9532

Allen, TX 75013



## **TRANSUNION**

1.800.680.7289

transunion.com

Fraud Victim Assistance Division

PO Box 6790

Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

# Types of Fraud

## ACCOUNT TAKEOVER

01

A thief will acquire access to your existing accounts, such as credit cards or e-commerce websites, so they can purchase items on your behalf.

## APPLICATION FRAUD

02

Your Social Security Number or other personal identification information will be used by thieves to open accounts in your name.

## CRIMINAL IDENTITY FRAUD

03

Thieves will commit crimes in your name after obtaining your identification information.

## How thieves obtain Your Identity

- ◆ It is not uncommon for thieves to pretend to be an authorized individual from a credible agency, such as a billing company, employer, or government agency to obtain financial or personal information
- ◆ Often, thieves steal purses, wallets, or incoming mail containing sensitive information
- ◆ Thieves will use phishing practices to capture your personal information or search the internet for personal

# How to protect yourself...

## Finances

- ✓ Your wallet or purse should NOT contain account numbers, passwords, PINs, or social security cards
- ✓ Write "**SEE ID**" in the signature box on your credit card
- ✓ Rather than using a debit card, use a credit card to avoid losing your own personal funds
- ✓ Keep an eye on your statements to catch any fraudulent charges
- ✓ Never write personal information (SSN, phone number, etc.) in the memo section of your checks
- ✓ When ordering new checks, send them to your local branch for pickup

## Online Shopping

- ✓ Whenever you make an online purchase, make sure you're using a secure network
- ✓ Keep your virus protection software up to date
- ✓ Equip your personal network with a firewall to protect from intruders
- ✓ Before recycling an old computer, wipe the entire hard drive
- ✓ Password protect files that contain sensitive financial or personal information
- ✓ Only use reputable companies when shopping online
- ✓ If an email seems suspicious, investigate the sender and the domain
- ✓ Use a combination of letters, numbers, and special characters for your passwords to ensure they are difficult to decipher

# Solicitations

- ✓ Never give out personal or financial information to a caller
- ✓ When a caller seems suspicious, ask to be removed from their list and hang up
- ✓ Register your phone number with the FTC's Do Not Call Registry, [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) or **1.888.382.1222**
- ✓ In the case of a suspicious email, investigate the sender's email and the originating domain
- ✓ Reduce unsolicited emails by registering at [dmachoice.org](https://www.dmachoice.org)
- ✓ If you receive continuous or unwanted emails, unsubscribe from them

# Reducing Opportunity



- ✓ Be sure to shred all financial, medical, and personal information prior to disposal
- ✓ Cut old credit cards through the chip and dispose in multiple trash receptacles
- ✓ Removing your US mail as soon as possible is always a good idea
- ✓ When sending sensitive information, deposit mail at a local post office
- ✓ Review your credit report as often as possible to make sure there are no issues
- ✓ Ensure that all financial, medical, and personal information is stored safely at home



# Contact Us

## Web

[alleghenycontroller.com](http://alleghenycontroller.com)

## Social

 @alleghenycontroller

 @AC\_Controller

## Email

[info@alleghenycontroller.com](mailto:info@alleghenycontroller.com)

## Phone

412.350.4664

## Address

436 Grant Street  
Courthouse, Suite 104  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

