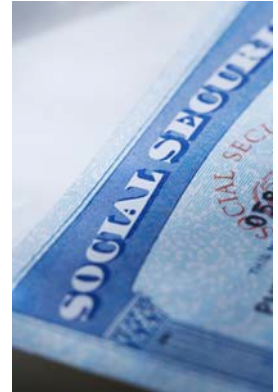




Guarding your identity

Identity fraud is one of the fastest-growing financial crimes in America, accounting for losses in the billions of dollars every year. Minneapolis police offer these tips for protecting yourself, and advice on what to do if it happens to you:

- Don't have your driver's license number or Social Security number printed on your checks.
- Don't carry your Social Security card or birth certificate in your wallet or purse.
- Try not to carry more than one credit card in your wallet.
- Don't carry credit card receipts. Keep them safe or destroy them.
- Don't carry account passwords with your cards or write them on the cards.
- Shred all credit card offers mailed to you.
- Never give your credit card number or bank account information to anyone calling you.
- Ask to have your checks mailed to your bank, not to your home.
- Lock your mailbox. Don't leave outgoing mail in your mailbox; drop it off at a post office or Postal Service mail collection box instead.
- When paying with your credit card, encourage clerks to check your identification.
- Review monthly bills carefully for unexplained charges.
- Shred all documents with account numbers before disposing of them.
- Order only from secure, reputable Internet sites.
- Order your credit report from the three major credit bureaus and make sure the information is correct. See numbers below.
- Make photocopies of the items in your wallet (both sides). Keep this photocopy in a safe place.



If someone has stolen your identity

- Call your local police department and file a report. Get a copy of the report in case the bank, credit card company or others need it later.
- Notify all three credit reporting bureaus. Tell them to put a fraud alert on your file and ask that no new credit be granted without your approval. Call Equifax at 1-800-685-1111, Experian at 1-888-397-3742, or Trans Union at 1-800-916-8800. Or on-line: equifax.com, experian.com and transunion.com respectively.
- Change your account numbers for banking, credit cards and utilities. Put passwords on all new accounts.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm.



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737
Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700
Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500
Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800
Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626
If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.