

# Identity Theft Prevention

## Tips to Protect Yourself from America's Fastest Growing Crime:

1. Consider placing a security freeze to block thieves from using your credit. There is no charge to place or lift a freeze for Indiana residents.
2. Don't share your personal information over the phone, through mail or online unless you know who you are dealing with.
3. Beware of missing bills or unexpected mail such as credit cards or account statements.
4. Promptly remove mail once it has been delivered.
5. Don't carry your Social Security Card in your wallet or write your SSN on a check.
6. Shop with cash when visiting fairs, festivals, luncheons, or sporting events.
7. Mark out all but the last four digits of any receipts containing your credit card numbers.
8. Prescription bottles contain vital information and should be disposed of without labels.
9. Review financial documents and billing statements regularly and shred before discarding them.
10. As soon as you become aware that your personal information has been stolen or used by someone else, report it to the Attorney General's ID Theft Unit and your local police department.



Greg  
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*Indiana Attorney General*

# Identity Theft Unit

The Indiana Attorney General's ID Theft Unit assists ID theft victims and provides investigative services to help promote the prosecution of identity thieves. The Unit also helps educate Hoosiers about protecting their identities through an online tool kit. An expert speaker is available for free ID theft prevention presentations for non-profit and civic organizations in the state.

## Understanding Your Rights

A security freeze is a consumer right provided by Indiana law and is one of the most effective ways to protect yourself from ID theft. Placing a security freeze on your credit reports can stop an identity thief from opening a new account or obtaining credit in your name. It also keeps new creditors from accessing your credit report without your authorization.

## How to Place a Security Freeze

Any Indiana resident can place a security freeze on their credit reports free of charge. There is also no fee to temporarily lift, remove or request a new PIN. To place a freeze, either use each credit agency's online process or send a letter by certified mail to each of the three credit agencies.



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