

IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS
SUPPORT GROUP OF
NORTH AMERICA

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Seventy-four percent of all "ID Theft Victims" never file a police report. Are you one of these Victims who didn't file a report?!
- **The Bad News.** Credit Card Reform Act of 2009 will change forever how parents and students fund everyday living expenses without Student Credit Cards. **The Good News.** Students will no longer have to cope with huge credit card debt once they graduate.
- Have you ran your children's credit reports lately? You will be surprised at what you might find.

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

- Is Someone Stealing Your Mail? 2
- "ID Theft First Response Survival Kit"? 2
- Obama Signs Credit Card Law 2
- What Banks Do Not Tell You! 3
- How Credit Card Companies Fail ID Theft 101. 3
- Children ID Theft-400,000 Victims A Year 3
- When ID Theft Strikes You, Do You Know What To Do? 4

"The Identity Theft

First Response Newsletter"

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HOW PREPARED ARE YOU AND YOUR 2009 H.S. GRADUATE FOR THE PERILS OF COLLEGE LIFE THIS COMING FALL?

Approximately 3.5 million high school graduates will be college-bound for the upcoming 2009/2010 school year.

These graduates will be facing a different economic climate. Some have or will experience numerous challenges or roadblocks that previous graduates haven't encountered because the rules have been changed.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 400,000 children under eighteen are "Victims of Identity Theft" every year. Over eighty percent of these children find out they are victims when they apply for a student loan and are denied. Others find out when they apply for a drivers license or try to rent an off-campus apartment and credit reports show delinquent accounts on utilities and/ or cell phone accounts.

Now is the time to check your children's credit reports to make sure they are clear, not in August. Your college-bound children (17-23) are not exempt from this crime. In fact, their use of debit cards (average charges are less than \$10) makes them a prime target for "Identity Thieves" (Skimming).

The largest rule change affecting college students in history was the "Credit Card Reform Act of 2009"(signed by President Obama, 5/22/09) (See link on page 2).

However, the new law is not effective until February 2010. Parents, expect the credit card companies to flood your college-bound children with solicitations between now and February 2010, before the law changes.

We all know what they did with

our interest rates and credit limits this past spring.

Do not let your college student leave home this fall without a cross-cut shredder for their dorm room.

They could end up like these two students, plenty of books, but no place to use them because someone stole their debit/credit card which was used for paying their tuition this fall.

Use this one simple rule for debit/credit cards.

NEVER LET IT LEAVE YOUR HAND.



Plano Based "ID Theft Victims Support Group of North America" Chosen For NOVA'S National Identity Theft Task Force

Plano, Tx. - Our organization, "Identity Theft Victims Support Group of North America" is proud to announce we have been chosen for "NOVA's (National Organization for Victim Assistance) National Identity Theft Task Force". NOVA has launched this Identity Theft Task Force to address the issues

of identity theft that face consumers every day.

You can see NOVA's full press release by going to this link: <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS141032+05-Oct-2009+BW20091005>

In Texas, our organization will be using the resources of

NOVA's ID Theft Task Force to launch a statewide campaign to assist business owners and consumers by hosting low cost seminars and workshops for both victims and non-victims. "ID Theft Prevention" programs have failed to stop the surge of "Identity Theft Crimes" in America.



Have You Checked Your Mail Lately? Are You Still Getting Your Bank & Credit Card Statements?

We need to follow the simple rule of the Boy Scouts of America. "Be Prepared". Just ask the victims of "Hurricane Katrina".

The number one Consumer Advocate "Fighting for You" on major "Consumer & Identity Theft Issues"



Is Someone Else Getting Your Bank & Credit Card Statements?

Did you know that mail theft is on the rise? Do you have an old fashioned mail box on a post in front of your house? Do you still send out payments to banks and credit card companies from your home mail box? If you do, STOP.

When you raise the red flag on your mail box to alert the mail carrier, you are also alerting the "Identity Thieves".

You would think after all of the news stories about mailbox theft, people would change

their habits. If you are not computer savvy, here is how you protect yourself.

1. Have all of your financial statements (brokerage acct.s. also), credit cards, bank account statements, insurance statements, and other personal identifying information such as drivers license and passports mailed to a P.O. Box outside of your zip code (security reason-this is your billing zip code).

If you are computer savvy, it

easier than you think.

2. Open P.O. Box and follow number one procedures. Or, where applicable, change all of your financial information to paperless and view data online.
3. Pay all of yours accounts online directly to your creditor or service provider.
4. Install security system such as McAfee Security Center on all computers.
5. Change password security every 60-90 days.

Do You Have A "ID Theft First Response" Survival Kit?

We should all develop an emergency plan to protect our homes and financial security while we are sane. We have had our share of floods, tornado's, wild fires, and hurricanes the past several years. We should all have our key contacts on our cell phones labeled ICE Wife or ICE Daddy, just in case we are in a car accident and cannot re-

spond to emergency personnel.

How many people know the full contents of their purse or wallet if it is stolen?

If you are prepared, you should be able to close or freeze all bank accounts, debit and credit card accounts in less than an hour. Practice your "ID Theft First Response Survival Plan".

Time is the number one enemy of "ID Theft Victims". The longer it takes you to close your accounts, the longer "ID Thieves" can wreck havoc on your financial security.

In one of our victim cases, the "Identity Thieves" charged over \$4,000 worth of goods in less than 6 hours.

The victims spent 800 plus hours dealing with the banks.

Obama Signs Credit Card Reform Law

Dear Lawrence:

We're celebrating, and so should you! After a nearly two-year battle, President Obama just signed into law credit card reform -- and it's all because of you!

Your donations, emails, phone calls and personal stories convinced Congress

to pass the most significant credit card reforms on the banks in nearly 30 years. We took on the big banks -- and won!

[Learn what the credit card reforms mean to your wallet](#), and give yourself a giant pat on the back.

Thank you for being part of the consumer movement -- we

have real power when we join together (Source: Consumer Union).

Special all who this fight America year. WE WON FOR YOU!



thanks to joined in across this past

Minerva Nova

Internet Advocacy Coordinator for Consumer Union

What The Banks Do Not Tell You!



Did you know there are six types of overdraft protection programs available for consumers?

No. 1 - Good account management (Cost \$0) **No. 2** - Link to savings account (Cost \$5 transfer Fee).

ATM Machine, How safe is it to use? Check the card slot for skimming devices.

No. 3 - Overdraft Line of Credit (Cost \$15 annual fee + 12.0% APR) **No. 4** - Link to cash advance on credit card (Cost \$3 Adv. Fee + 18.0% APR) **No. 5** - Courtesy Overdraft Plan (Cost \$30 Bank O. Draft Fee) **No. 6** - Bounced check (Cost \$60, \$30 for Bank Fee, \$30 for Merchant Fee).

Here is the problem for "identity Theft Victims". If your account is

linked to your savings account (**No. 2**) and your debit card is stolen, your account turns into a slot machine for the thieves.

How do you stop this from happening?

Open two checking accounts. One for your checking account (for check writing) with a "Overdraft Line of Credit" (**No. 3**) and one for your debit card. No checks, no links, and no overdraft protection for your debit card. Keep balances on debit card below \$200.

"According to The National Conference of Legislators, (As of May 2008) only 28 states have "Anti-Skimming Laws . Eight of these states classify this crime as a misdemeanor. Why? Go to: www.ncsl.org/programs/lis/privacy/SkimmingDevices.htm Please read the Nevada State Law

How Credit Card Companies Fail - Identity Theft 101

Did you know that banks were at first very exclusive about who they gave ATM (Today's Debit Card) privileges to. They gave them only to credit card holders (credit cards were used before ATM cards) with good banking records (1968).

In 1972, I possessed one of these new cards (BankAmericard) that allowed me to withdraw money from a ATM machine similar to the

one pictured above. The four digit pin security code I used in 1972 is the same number of digits we all use today when we use our credit and debit cards in the walk-up or drive-thru ATM's.

The best consumer controlled security systems that VISA and MasterCard has implemented for their credit cards in thirty-seven years, is your five digit billing zip

code.

By the way, Bank of America created the VISA And MasterCard network systems. Now you know why they are so big now.

We still cannot use our four digit pin code as a security measure with merchants. This code only works in ATM machines However, ATM fees are up 1,100.0% over 1972.

penalties. We need to make the Nevada Law, the "Skimming Law of all 50 states., or better yet, make this a Federal Law. Write to your Senators and Congressional Representatives in Washington D.C. We should demand nothing less. The time for sitting on the sidelines is over. You must get involved in stopping this devastating crime.

"America's Sleeping Giant, Children ID Theft"

"Identity Thieves" have found a new supply source to exploit others, in "America's Number One Crime, Identity Theft". According to CBS's consumer correspondent Susan Koeppen of "The Early Show", "Children are perfect targets because they have clean credit histories and thieves can get away with the crime for years, since kids and their parents rarely check the kids' credit reports". According to the Federal Trade Commission, 400,000 children had

their ID's stolen last year (2005). In an NBC news story in Dallas, Texas on March 3rd, 2005, "a 10 year old, 4th grader already had an extensive credit history. She had 17 credit cards, in which she racked up thousands of dollars on her American Express and had been approved for a \$42,000 loan. She is deep in debt and has been since she was just five. The thief was caught and sent to jail

for six months. The thief was her mother.

Please help us in getting the "The Children's Identity Theft Protection Security Act of 2009" passed into law. Go to our web site under "Children ID Theft" for further details on this legislative proposal to Congress.

Thank You!



"Help Us Stop Children Identity Theft Predators"



Identity Theft Victims Support Group of North America

Primary Business Address

P.O. Box 940867
Plano, Texas 75094-0867

Phone: 214-412-5970

Fax:

E-mail:

lawrencewilson@identitytheftvictims.us

"Identity Theft Education Is Not Free, Just Ask 60 Million Victims What Their Tuition Cost Was At "The University of Identity Thieves".

Identity Theft Victims Support Group of North America (est. 2005), ID Theft Victims Support Group of North Texas (est. 2004), and Identity Theft Victims U.S. (est. 2006) are registered companies within the State of Texas. They were organized to combat the growing national threat of Identity Theft" & "Financial Fraud".

We are proud to announce that we are part of "NOVA's National Identity Theft Task Force".

We depend on your support by attending our "ID Theft Seminars and Workshops". We also depend on the generosity of individuals in the community, like you, to help others obtain these services. We cannot do it alone.



When Identity Theft Strikes You, Do You Know

What To Do To Restore Your Financial Security?

According to the Federal Trade Commission's "2006 Identity Theft Report" (Prepared by Synovate, November 2007), seventy-four percent (74.0%) of all ID Theft Victims DID NOT CONTACT POLICE. Of the remaining 26.0% who reported the crime to police, 19.0% of that group had NO REPORT taken by the police.

To make matters worse, relatively few "Victims of Identity Theft" took advantage of the fraud alert system or the "Consumer Credit Freeze Laws". According to this report, approximately 7.0% placed fraud alerts and 7.0% froze their credit bureau files.

To all consumers that have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on "Credit Monitoring Services" over the past three or four years, the next statistic will be very troublesome.

Only 11.0% of "How Victims Discovered ID Theft", was discovered by these credit monitoring services. According to Consumer Union and other consumer advocate professionals, credit monitoring services is not an effective deterrent against stopping "Identity Thieves" from accessing your credit bureau files (Experian,



"Identity Theft Is A Federal Crime, Not A Shortcut To The American Dream".

Equifax and TransUnion).

Everyone is selling ID Theft Prevention and Credit Monitoring Services (Fees: \$100—\$200 or more per year) based upon your fear of being a "Victim" or becoming a victim. Or you could hire a private investigator or an attorney to recover your "Identity" for a fee (\$1,000 - \$3,000 or more). They will offer no guarantee that it won't happen again..

Usually, most victims (we have helped over 4,000 Victims since 2003) end up with a very large stack of credit reports, police reports and a long list of contact numbers from the various state and federal agencies. Most end up with thinner wallets and are still left fighting the theft on their own. Creditor's treat you like the "Thief", and not the "Victim". Very Sad Day!