

If You Are A Victim:

Queens District Attorney Hotline Numbers

To Report Fraud, Please Contact:

Office of the Queens District Attorney

Economic Crimes Bureau
80-02 Kew Gardens Road
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
(718) 286-6673

Equifax

www.equifax.com

To order your report:

Call 800-685-1111 or

Write to P.O. Box 740241,

Atlanta, GA 30374-6285

To report fraud, call 800-525-6285

Experian

www.experian.com

To order your report:

Call 800-397-3742 or

Write to P.O. Box 2104,

Allen, TX 75013

To report fraud, call 888-397-3742

Trans Union

www.tuc.com

To order your report:

Call 800-916-8800 or

Write to P.O. Box 1000,

Chester, PA 01902

To report fraud, call 800-680-7289



QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BLVD
KEW GARDENS, NY 11415
(718) 286-6000



Richard A. Brown
Queens District Attorney

Seven Ways To Lose Your Identity

A thief only needs three pieces of information: your name, social security number & date of birth to open accounts.

Stealing company data occurs when hackers or insiders break into company databases or websites where personal identifying information is stored.

False pretense is when e-mail spammers, telemarketers, and sales people lure you into revealing personal information.

Dumpster diving is when criminals dig through trash for medical statements, bills, or other personal papers to obtain credit or bank account information.

Mail theft occurs when individuals remove mail containing personal information, pre-approved credit offers, and checks from unlocked mailboxes.

Account takeover is when thieves use stolen or fake ID's to take over or drain existing bank or credit accounts. Thieves escape detection by forwarding mail to a private mailbox or new address.

Old computers can be raided to access sensitive files from the hard drives.

Skimming is a technique used by thieves when a magnetic card reader is used to read the magnetic strip on credit or debit cards. The information obtained by swiping a credit or debit card can be transferred to a counterfeit credit card. Some private automatic teller machines have also been rigged to skim account numbers and PINs. The culprits include waiters, gas station attendants, and store clerks.



Minimize Your Risk

Shred Papers that contain personal information and pre-approved credit card offers.

1. Install firewalls and virus detection software on your home computer.
2. Password protect all your banks/brokerage accounts by creating a password at least eight characters long.
3. Get your checks delivered to your bank, not your home address.
4. Do not give personal information based on unsolicited e-mails and phone calls.
5. Do not use e-mail to send your social security number or other personal data.
6. When discarding an old computer, use hard drive shredding software or remove and destroy hard drives.
7. Deal with reputable websites.
8. Watch your credit by requesting a credit report once a year from three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. Report all errors promptly in writing.



What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft is the fraudulent use of your name and identifying data by someone else to obtain credit, merchandise, services, money, or medical information.

Personal Identifying Information

Is any information that identifies a specific individual. These personal identifiers include the following:

- Date of birth
- Employer or taxpayer identification
- Alien registration
- Government passport
- Health insurance identification
- Credit card number
- Debit card number
- Driver's license
- Social security number
- Savings account number
- Mother's maiden name

