

### Signs of Identity Theft may include:

- ★ You notice errors or unfamiliar transactions on your bank or credit card accounts.
- ★ Your credit report includes unfamiliar account charges.
- ★ Your credit report contains inquiries made by businesses in response to applications for credit, loans, or services you did not initiate.
- ★ You receive collection notices or calls about a debt that is not yours.
- ★ You have a good credit rating but are declined credit in response to an application.
- ★ Your checks are refused by merchants
- ★ You get bills for accounts you didn't open or for medical services you didn't receive.
- ★ Your medical records report a condition you do not have.
- ★ You are notified by the IRS that you have income from an employer unknown to you or that more than one tax return was filed with your Social Security number.

### Personal information thieves use to steal your identity:

- ★ Full Name
- ★ Address- (home or other)
- ★ Phone Number
- ★ Date and place of birth
- ★ Social Security Number
- ★ Driver's License Number
- ★ Passport Number
- ★ Email address
- ★ Credit/Debit card numbers
- ★ Photos, videos, or audio files
- ★ Health plan information
- ★ Screen or user names
- ★ Passwords and PIN's.

**Identity theft is a federal crime. It occurs when someone uses your personal information without your knowledge or permission for financial gain.**

## Portage County Ohio Sheriff's Office

# Helping prevent Identity Theft



## Protect yourself!

David W. Doak

**Sheriff**

8240 Infirmiry Road  
Ravenna, OH 44266

330-296-5100  
330-678-7012

## What to do if Identity theft happens to you:

1. Call any business where you know fraud took place. Ask to speak to the fraud department and ask for the account to be closed.
2. Place an initial fraud alert on your files by contacting one of the three major U.S. credit reporting companies to report yourself a victim of identity theft.
3. Order a copy of your credit report.
4. File a complaint about the theft with the FTC. You can do so online or over the phone.

[ftccomplaintassistance.gov](http://ftccomplaintassistance.gov)  
**1-877-438-4338**

5. File a police report at your local police station where the theft occurred. Bring along a copy of your FTC Identity Theft Affidavit, any other proof of identity theft, proof of your address, and a government-issued I.D.



## The Three main credit reporting agencies are:

**Equifax 1-888-766-0008**  
**Equifax.com**

**Experian 1-888-397-3742**  
**Experian.com**

**Transunion 1-800-680-7289**  
**TransUnion.com**



**PAST DUE**

**FRAUD  
ALERT**

## Ways to be Cyber Secure:

1. Be sure to have some kind of Firewall active on your home computer or laptop and keeping your anti-virus programs and other malware programs up to date.
2. Keep your operating systems current. Update with any new patches they provide for any security weakness.
3. Evaluate your browser's privacy settings. Disable or limit cookies as some may be used maliciously and collect information about you.
4. Explore security options for all internet-connected devices, including gaming systems.
5. Make sure mobile devices aren't set to automatically connect to near-by Wi-fi, as this can expose you to insecure networks.
6. When not in use, disable mobile device features that connect you to other devices.
7. Configure mobile phones or tablets to lock automatically after 5 minutes or less of non-use.
8. Back-up your data regularly.