

Suggestions on Ways to Protect Yourself Against Fraud and Identity Theft

Social Security Number (SSN)

Do not give out your SSN

Do not carry it in your purse or wallet

Do not print it on your checks

If stolen, immediately contact Social Security Administration fraud line 800-269-0271 to place a fraud alert on your name and SSN

Contents of Wallet or Purse

Photocopy the contents

- Copy both sides of each document or credit card
- Place photocopies in a safe place at home.

Lost or Stolen Credit Cards

Immediately cancel any lost or stolen credit cards

Call the three national credit reporting agencies

- Equifax 800-525-6285
- Experian 888-397-3742
- TransUnion 800-680-7289

Call Social Security (fraud line) 800-269-0271

File a police report in the jurisdiction where the loss or theft took place

Requests for Credit Card or Bank Information

Never give information out to an unknown caller

- Obtain their name and tell them you will call your bank or credit card company personally

Wiring Money

Never wire money to strangers for any reason

Unexpected e-mails

Be cautious

Many appear legitimate, but are really scams

If information is requested, contact the company directly by mail or phone – don't respond to the email

Do not click on links in the email – they can lead to bogus web sites appearing to be legitimate

Prizes or Sweepstakes

Never pay money to win a prize or enter a sweepstakes

Product Offer – Service Offer – Charity Appeal

Contact the Better Business Bureau before responding

Report all questionable calls to the Better Business Bureau

Outgoing Bill Payments

Never place outgoing payments in an unsecured mailbox

- Thieves can take the envelope, steam it open, copy information and steal your identity