

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

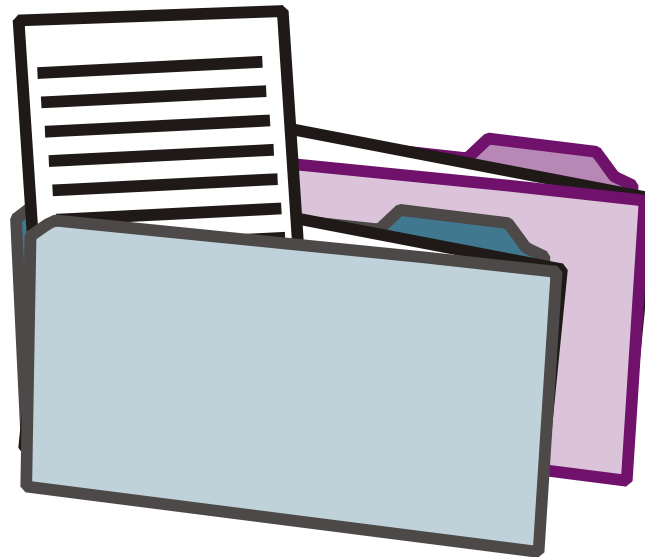




**Eastern Los Angeles
Regional Center
April, 2008**

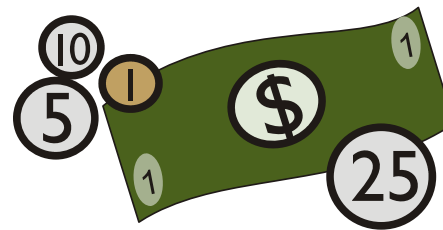
What is Identity Theft?

Identity Theft is when someone uses information about you (like your name or social security number) without your permission, to commit crimes



Types of Crimes

- The thief may use your credit card numbers to shop and leave you with the bill to pay.
- The thief may set up a service for himself (phone, cable, rent) and not pay. Then, it will look like YOU did not pay. This will make it harder for you to get the same services when you need them.



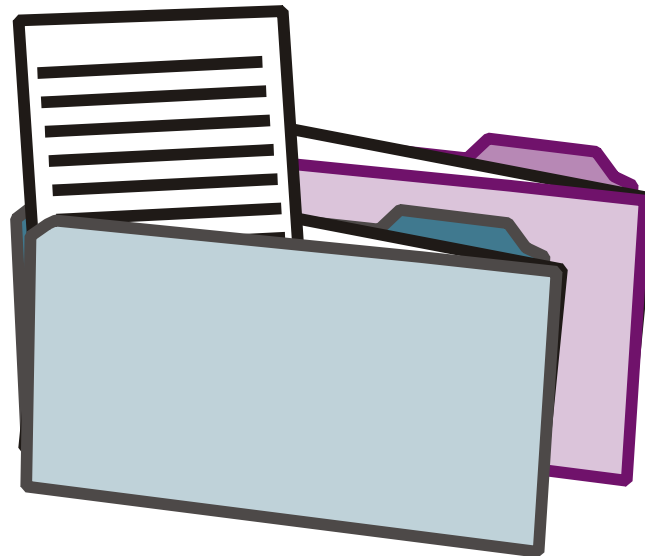
Types of Crimes

- The thief may get in trouble with the police and use your name because he has your important papers. Later, you may have trouble with the police because they have your name instead of the thief.



Types of Crimes

- The thief may apply for government benefits (like SSI) in your name, disrupting your benefits



How does Identity Theft Happen?

- **Dumpster Diving:** The thief picks through your trash to find papers with your name, social security, or credit card numbers.



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How does Identity Theft Happen?

- “PHISHING” The thief uses email asking for your name and social security number or credit card number. The thief may also call on the phone or send you a letter.



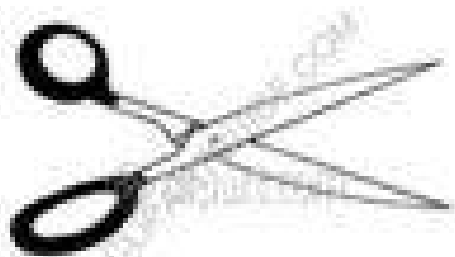
How does Identity Theft Happen?

- **STEALING:** The thief steals your wallet, purse, or your mail from your mailbox



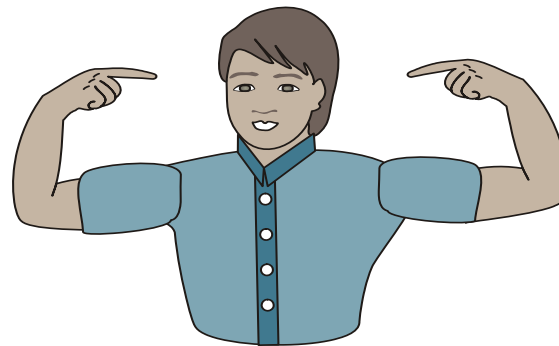
How do I protect myself?

- Before you throw away papers, make sure to shred (cut up or tear into very small pieces) any papers with your name, social security number, credit card numbers, or bank account information.



How do I protect myself?

- Do not carry your social security card in your wallet or purse. Keep it safe at home.
- Do not ever give your social security number to a stranger over the phone, in the mail, or over email



What if I think someone has stolen my identity?

File a police report. Have someone you trust help you. It is important to tell the police right away to stop more crimes from happening to you and other people.



Ways to tell your identity may have been stolen

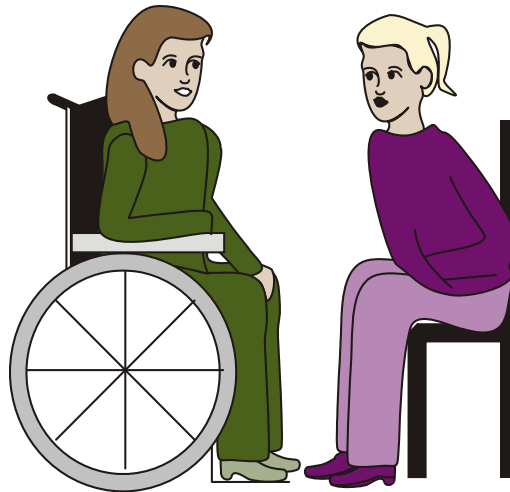
- You do not get your regular bills.
- You get new bills for credit cards or services that you do not have.
- You get calls or letters about unpaid bills for things you did not buy.





If you want to learn more about
identity theft...

- www.FTC.gov/idtheft
- Talk to your service coordinator





IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

These are agencies that can help you report and learn more about fraud:

- Equifax 800 525 6285
- Experian 888 397 3742
- Trans Union 800 680 7289