

# Protect Yourself



## *Against Identity Theft*



Identity crimes are on the rise. Within the next five years, one out of four people will either be a victim of an identity crime, or be related to a victim and experience an average loss of \$20,000 to \$30,000. Identity thieves are committing financial sabotage when they use your personal information to open credit card accounts, rob retirement earnings or commit other acts of fraud.

### *When Identity Theft Strikes:*

- \* Act quickly and assertively to minimize the damage to your credit reputation.
- \* Close accounts you know or believe have been tampered with.
- \* File a report with local police where theft or fraud took place.
- \* Confirm all spoken conversations with written follow-up.
- \* Immediately call financial institutions and alert them of theft or fraud.

### *Prevent Identity Theft:*

- \* Avoid carrying extra credit cards, your social security card, birth certificate or passport.
- \* Carefully review credit card statements and phone bills.
- \* Shred all important documents, including receipts, before throwing away.
- \* Be aware of your surroundings when in public.

### *Did you know...*



Your Social Security number doesn't have to be listed on your Ohio driver license? During your next visit to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), request to have your Social Security number omitted from your driver license. Effective in January 2002, the BMV will no longer print Social Security numbers on licenses unless requested to do so.

If you think you are a victim of identity theft, report the crime to your local law enforcement agency.

***\*Remember, you are not responsible for any bill or checks written or cashed which result from identity theft!***

**For additional information, please contact the Ohio State Highway Patrol at 614-752-0234.**



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