

What is Identity Theft?

Driver's License Identity Theft

Thieves use your identity to acquire a driver's license, and claim to be you if caught committing a crime:



An 82-year-old grandmother quit driving during the Truman administration. In 2001 she suddenly found herself in what she describes as a 'living hell' after one of her neighbors, arrested on drunk-driving charges ... pretended to be her. "I was told there were warrants for my arrest ... I was afraid to answer the phone." (Source: AARP Bulletin)

Social Security Identity Theft

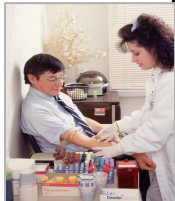
Thieves use your Social Security identity to gain employment or to report income under your name:



A Chicago woman applied for a job at a local Target department store and was denied. The reason? She already worked there – or rather, her Social Security number already worked there. Follow-up investigation revealed the same Social Security Number was used to obtain work at 37 other employers. (Source: MSNBC)

Medical Identity Theft

Thieves use your Medical identity to obtain insurance benefits, prescription drugs, etc:



*A retired schoolteacher has found out the hard way about the newest form of identity theft - using someone else's information to obtain medical care. Hospital bill collectors demanded Linda Weaver, 57, pay for the **amputation of her right foot** after an identity thief obtained care under her name.* (Source: United Press International)

Character / Criminal Identity Theft -

Thieves mask criminal activity behind your identity:



A man who stole a doctor's identity nine years ago is behind bars after undercover detectives learned he was calling in prescriptions, posing as a patient to pick them up, and selling the medications on the street. He confessed to stealing the identity of Dr. Robert Chouteau, a Dallas orthopedic specialist. Henderson also said he used the doctor's DEA ID to obtain prescription narcotics. (Source: Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Financial Identity Theft

Thieves use your information to open new accounts or to gain access to existing financial information:



In 2003, The Korinke family was sued by Homecoming Financial Network INC. (HFN), a division of GMAC, for \$75,000, plus attorney fees. In 2001, an imposter got hold of a line of credit, switched the address, and the Korinkes never received the outstanding bills. HFN claimed the Korinkes had been negligent. "The Korinkes were slow to discover and report the identity theft, as such; Korinke is liable for any and all sums attributed to his negligence." Korinke's attorney said, "victims who don't have the means to find a good lawyer, may be losing out in battles with financial institutions." (Source: MSNBC)

"Identity thieves are so bold that they held a conference in Kiev, Ukraine, for people interested in 'breaking in' to this Growing Industry"

(Source: MSNBC)