



[www.holmesbeachfl.org](http://www.holmesbeachfl.org)



For further information,  
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## Identity Theft Prevention



**MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY A  
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE**

Courtesy of

**William L. Tokajer**  
**Chief of Police**

# Identity Theft... can happen to anyone

Despite your best efforts to protect your personal information, skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to gain access to your data and take over your identity. Thieves find ways to get your information



## How Thieves Get Your Personal Information

- Steal Wallets & Purses
- Steal Mail
- Complete a Change of Address Form
- Rummage Through Your Trash
- Get Your Credit Report
- Get Your Records Through Work
- Use The Information You Give Out Over the Internet
- They Buy Information From People You Do Business With

## Ways Thieves Use Your Personal Information



- They call pretending to be you & change the address. Since you do not receive the bills it takes a while before you realize there is a problem.
- They open a new credit card account using your personal information. They charge large amounts and then do not pay the bills.
- They establish phone or wireless service in your name and ring up large bills
- They open checking accounts in your name and write bad checks
- They file bankruptcy under your name to avoid paying debts incurred under your name
- They counterfeit checks and debit cards and drain your bank account.
- They buy cars by taking out auto loans in your name

## Ways To Minimize Your Risk

- Before revealing your personal information, find out how it will be used and if it will be shared with others.
- Pay close attention to your billing cycles.
- Put passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. (Avoid using obvious choices like your address or phone number as your password)

Do not give out information over the phone, mail, or internet unless you have initiated contact.



Keep items with personal information in a safe place in your home.

Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major agencies each year

## What To Do If You Suspect Identity Theft

**Immediately contact the Holmes Beach Police Department 941-778-COPS (2677)**

You should immediately contact these credit bureaus and request that a **CONSUMER FRAUD ALERT** be placed upon your credit information:

- Equifax 1- 800 - 525 - 6285
- Experian 1- 800 - 749 - 7576
- Transunion 1- 800 - 680 - 7289

Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline  
1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338)

[www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft)

Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)

[www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com)