

IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- Check credit scores regularly. Some credit card companies provide this as part of their monthly statement.
- Invest with companies that voluntarily adopt online fraud policies that promise to reimburse assets stolen in unauthorized online transactions.
- Keep important documents in a secure location such as a safe or a locking file.
- Before giving out an SSN, ask what the business will do with the information, why it needs your SSN, and what will happen if you refuse its request.
- Shred or hide all documents that contain full account numbers or other sensitive information.
- Keep wallets and purses out of plain sight.
- Password protect all electronic devices with passwords that are unobvious, contain at least eight characters, and include uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
Choose different passwords for different accounts. Change passwords regularly. Store passwords away from the computer. Use two-factor authentication where available.
- Only install known, safe software. Also install a firewall and anti-virus and anti-spyware software to detect unwanted programs. Click only on safe links.
- Frequently back up critical information.
- Residents of Florida, Georgia, and the District of Columbia should order a preventive identity protection personal identification number (IP PIN) from the IRS.
- Frequently check social media postings and privacy settings.