



Personal Identification Security



What are the problems?

- Identity Theft refers to all types of crimes in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses the personal information of another in such a way that involves fraud or deception, usually for financial gain.
- Identity Theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America and other countries around the world.
- Your personal data, such as your social security number, your bank account or credit card number, telephone calling card number, and other valuable identifying data, including your date of birth, can be used by the wrong persons to personally profit at your expense.
- Using such information, unauthorized persons can not only wreak havoc with an individual's personal finances but can even take over their identity altogether amassing enormous debts and even committing criminal acts in the name of their victims.

Need more info?

- **UGA Police Department:** (706) 542-1032
- **USAA Educational Foundation:** identity theft section , www.usaaedfoundation.org
- **Identity Theft Resource Center:**
<http://www.idtheftcenter.org/vg110.shtml>
- **U.S. Department of Justice, Identity Theft:**
<http://www.usdoj.gov>
- **Internet Fraud Complaint Center:**
<http://www1.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp>

How to protect yourself:

- Never give out personal information over the phone if you are not certain of who it is.
- Discarded papers and letters that have person information on them. Some information that is often available via this method includes bank and credit card statements, 'pre-approved' credit card applications, and even your telephone bill. Either shred or cut up all letters or bills before you put them in the trash.
- Order online can be dangerous. If available, order over the phone and always make sure if you do order online that it is a secured site.
- Do not print your Social Security number, phone number, date of birth or credit card account number on your checks, and don't give this information to a merchant who wants to write it on your check at the time of purchase.
- Try to limit the number of personal identifiers and credit cards you carry around in your wallet or handbag.
- Print & keep receipts of on-line transactions. Check your credit card statement to ensure charges are consistent with the receipt.
- Any time you have to give personal information, find out how your it will be used and if it will be shared with others. Ask if you can choose to have it kept confidential