

# If You Suspect Identity Theft

- Report it to local law enforcement and request a copy of the report;
- File a complaint with the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) at 1-877-438-4338;
- **Immediately** contact your bank and close affected accounts;
- Contact credit card companies;
- Place fraud alerts on all accounts by calling:  
**Equifax**  
1-800-525-6285  
**Experian (formerly TRW)**  
1-888-397-3742  
**Transunion**  
1-800-680-7289
- Keep a detailed log of who you have contacted and copies of all correspondence.

# Elder Resource Contacts

## Elder Helpline

1-800-96-ELDER  
(1-800-963-5337)

## Department of Financial Services Consumer Hotline

1-800-342-2762

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Hotline

1-800-435-7352

## Senior Legal Helpline

1-888-895-7873

## TDD

(for hearing impaired)

Elder Abuse Hotline number

1-800-453-5145

Elder Helpline number

1-800-955-8771



This brochure is published by the statewide Triad to provide basic consumer information to help prevent Florida elders from becoming victims of identity theft. It is not intended as a substitute for legal advice.

# Prevent Identity Theft

## Tips to Reduce Risk



## Florida TRIAD

# A Crime Prevention and Intervention Program

# Minimize the Risk of Becoming a Victim of Identity Theft

## NEVER

- Carry a Social Security card;
- Carry multiple credit cards;
- Give personal information over the telephone;
- Print identification numbers on checks; or
- Answer unsolicited email that requests personal information.



## ALWAYS

- Look for due dates on financial statements and bills;
- Remove mail promptly from your mailbox;
- Review statements and bills promptly;
- Shred personal mail and information with a shredder or scissors;
- Stop mail while you are on vacation;
- Make a copy of all items in your wallet and keep it with personal papers in a safe place;
- Shop online only with merchants with secure sites. A graphic, typically a lock, should appear in the bottom right corner of your browser bar; and
- Have checks printed with initials only and no street address. Pick up your checks at the bank, if possible.

## YOU CAN

- Remove your name from telemarketing lists by registering your phone number with the Federal Trade Commission's National DO NOT CALL Registry. Call toll-free 1-888-382-1222;
- Request credit reports annually from all three reporting agencies at no fee by visiting on the web at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or by calling 1-877-322-8228;
- Remove your name from receiving firm offers of credit or credit insurance based on credit reports by calling 1-888-567-8688. The program is called Optout. You will be asked to provide your social security number!

