

## KEY POINTS

- Store personal documents.
- Retrieve your mail promptly from mailbox.
- Lock your home and vehicle at all times.
- Arrange for mail pick up while away.
- Memorize (PIN) personal identification.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately.
- Notify credit reporting agencies.
- Shred all mail and unnecessary papers.
- DO NOT release personal data.
- DO NOT carry excessive amounts of cash.
- DO NOT carry Social Security card.

For more information on how to protect your identity, contact the Hall County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at (770) 533-7806.

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

## Hall County Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit  
610 Main Street  
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

Office: (770) 533-7806  
Fax: (770) 533-7803

## Hall County Sheriff's Office

# IDENTITY THEFT

Two Star Accredited Agency



## PERSONAL SAFETY HANDBOOK



**STEVE CRONIC, SHERIFF**

## Message from Sheriff Steve Cronic...

The Hall County Sheriff's Office is your partner in fighting crime, insuring safety, and maintaining an outstanding quality of life.



Occasionally, issues arise that require a rapid response remedy. **IDENTITY THEFT** has been brought to the forefront of our everyday lives in just about every community throughout the country.

The Hall County Sheriff's Office, with an agency-wide commitment to excellence, is taking a serious look at this unwanted attack on personal lives and finances.

**IDENTITY THEFT** is a crime and awareness is the first step to prevention. This brochure was designed with your safety and quality of life in mind.

Should you require additional information or assistance, please call my Crime Prevention Unit at (770) 533-7806.

[WWW.HALLCOUNTYSHERIFF.ORG](http://WWW.HALLCOUNTYSHERIFF.ORG)



"Identity Theft is a Serious Crime!"

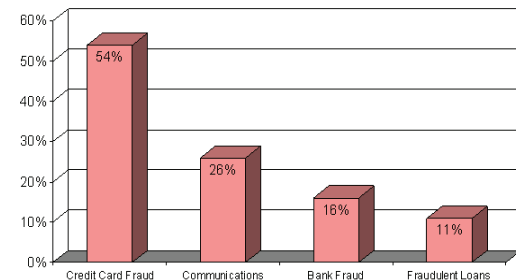
### TARGETED PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Social Security Number
- Drivers License
- Utility Account Numbers
- Bank Account Numbers
- PIN (Personal ID number)
- Passport Data
- Credit Card Data

### STOLEN IDENTIFICATION USED FOR:

- Deplete bank accounts
- Run up credit card balances
- Establish new accounts
- Gain employment
- Establish new identity
- Avoid legal action

### Most Common Forms of ID Theft





## PROFILE OF A THIEF

You may have a mental picture of what you think a thief looks like or how he may act in public. Perhaps it's a sleazy, little, dirty street corner thug, or a shady person in a trench coat.

This picture most people have is absolutely false! The only profile of today's identity thief is summed up in three factors.

### **INTENT TO COMMIT A CRIME TECHNOLOGY OR ABILITY A VULNERABLE TARGET**

## NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

REGISTER AT:  
[WWW.DONOTCALL.GOV](http://WWW.DONOTCALL.GOV)  
TOLL FREE: (888)-382-1222



"Identity Theft is a Serious Crime!"



## IDENTITY THEFT ALERT

Here are some key points to protecting yourself:

- Delete "unsolicited" e-mail offers and messages;
- Secured unattended computer terminals;
- Never remained "logged in" on computer;
- Never release personal information online;
- Be alert when being invited to meet someone;
- Be cautious in the use of internet banking;
- Be cautious about releasing information;
- Always question someone asking for data.





## INTRODUCTION

In the 1990's a very innovative breed of criminal slowly began to surface throughout the United States.

With the introduction of credit cards, cash has gradually become a secondary source of funds for the average American. A stolen wallet or purse today, would more than likely contain more plastic cards than paper currency. Over the years, the average theft has evolved into a very sophisticated and well thought out crime.

## IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft is the unauthorized taking of certain bits of personal, identifying information, without your knowledge, with the intent to commit a crime.



## HOW COULD MY IDENTITY BE STOLEN?

- Rummaging through your garbage...
- Mailbox prowling
- Parked and unsecured vehicles
- Dishonest co-workers personal records.
- Private areas left unsecured.
- Computers left open and unattended.
- Credit card transactions.
- Shoulder surfing (Guard your PIN)

Identity Theft Complaints by State Per Capita  
(November 1999 — June 2001)

