

If you are a victim

▶ Contact your creditors and banks to alert them and to close your accounts.

▶ Contact the credit bureaus to alert them of the fraud and to place a fraud notification on your credit file.

▶ Immediately contact the law enforcement agency in the area where the crime occurred.

▶ Police will need financial statements, affidavits, cancelled checks, receipts and any other relevant documents in order to investigate your case.

▶ Request a copy of your credit history to check for fraudulent activity.

▶ Contact your local DMV for driver's license replacement.

▶ Contact the Social Security Administration if your Social Security Number has been compromised.

Important Contacts

▶ Equifax (800) 525-6285
www.equifax.com

▶ Experian (888) 397-3742
www.experian.com

▶ Trans Union (800) 680-7289
www.transunion.com

▶ Social Security Administration
(800) 269-0271
www.ssa.gov

▶ Federal Trade Commission
(877) IDTHEFT (438-4338)
www.ftc.gov or
<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>

George Mason University
Police Department
4400 University Drive MSN 3D3
Fairfax, VA 22030

Report Crime:

Call **911** for emergencies and crimes in progress

Call GMU Crime Solvers (703) 993-4111 to leave ANONYMOUS tips. A cash reward may be available

Call University Police at **(703) 993-HELP** (4357) for non emergency situations requiring police.

Identity Theft

Prevention

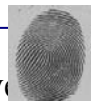
and

Victim's Resource Guide



to the University Police immediately.

The Crime of Identity Theft



- ▶ The George Mason University Police Department recognizes the growing threat of identity theft to our students, faculty, staff, and guests. University Police officers are fully sworn, state certified police officers with the training necessary to deal with this crime.
- ▶ The term “identity theft” or “ID theft” refers to the unlawful usage of another person’s identifying information for personal gain.
- ▶ Identity theft is a crime codified in § 18.2-186.3 of the Virginia Criminal Code. This law provides that a crime of identity theft that results in a \$200 or more loss or a second or subsequent conviction regardless of the amount is a class 6 felony, punishable by 1 – 5 years in a state correctional institution and/or a fine of \$2500.
- ▶ Report crimes that occur on George Mason University property

Prevent ID Theft

- ▶ Criminals use several different techniques to steal your personal information. They may steal your outgoing or incoming mail, containing pre-approved credit applications, tax forms, bank statement, credit card statements, medical forms, etc. Criminals may rummage through your garbage to collect information about you, or they may pose as representatives of your creditors on the phone or online or in an email, in order to collect your personal information.
- ▶ No one can guarantee you that you will not be a victim of identity theft, but this booklet contains important steps that you can take to reduce the likelihood of being victimized.
- ▶ Avoid carrying your social security card with you.
- ▶ Request that DMV remove your Social Security Number from your driver’s license.

- ▶ Shred or burn any documents with your sensitive personal information on them.

- ▶ Only give your personal information to representatives of trustworthy and established companies that have a need to know. This includes in person, on the phone, and on the internet.
- ▶ Beware of Phishing schemes in which criminals posing as your bank or creditors request personal information by email. Never email personal information, even if the request looks legitimate.
- ▶ Avoid mail theft by placing outgoing mail in locked US Postal Service collection boxes.
- ▶ Closely review your bills, bank statements, and periodically obtain a copy of your credit report to check for fraudulent activity.
- ▶ Protect your purse or wallet and the information it contains. Avoid carrying more personal information than is necessary.
- ▶ Opt out of pre approved credit card offers by contacting the three major credit bureaus.