Other ways to protect your identity

- If your mail has been stolen, report it to your local postal inspector or the U.S. postal inspector.
  www.usps.gov

- If you have had checks stolen or bank accounts set up fraudulently in your name, contact Telecheck to have your files flagged.
  www.telecheck.com • 800-710-9898

- If your investments or brokerage accounts have been tampered with, report it to your broker and to the Securities and Exchange Commission.
  www.sec.gov • 800-SEC-0330

- If you believe someone is using your Social Security number, report it to the Social Security Fraud Hotline.
  800-269-0271

- If someone has filed for bankruptcy using your name, contact the U.S. Trustee Program in the region where the bankruptcy was filed.
  www.usdoj.gov

- If a criminal or driving record has been created fraudulently under your name, contact the State’s Attorney’s office in your jurisdiction. You may need to consult an attorney to help resolve the problem.

For more information:

Illinois Secretary of State
800-252-8980
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Illinois Attorney General
ID Theft Hotline
866-999-5630

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August 2013 — 2.5M — SOS DOP 156.4

If a criminal or driving record has been created fraudulently under your name, contact the State’s Attorney’s office in your jurisdiction. You may need to consult an attorney to help resolve the problem.

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Protect your personal information

In addition to your Social Security number, identity thieves can steal your name, address, driver’s license number, bank account numbers and credit card numbers. They get this information by stealing purses or wallets, going through your mail or garbage, buying or stealing information from stores, restaurants, hotels and banks, and redirecting your mail. They also can obtain personal information from unsecure Internet sites.

Follow these tips to protect your personal information:

- Don’t leave your purse or wallet unattended.
- Carry only the IDs and credit cards you need.
- Don’t give personal information over the phone.
- Don’t transmit personal information over the Internet unless it is a secure site.
- Don’t reveal personal information in e-mails or discussion forums.
- Keep passwords and PIN numbers in a safe place and avoid using easily available information.
- Review bank and credit card accounts regularly and report discrepancies and late or missing statements.
- Monitor your credit report by ordering free copies every year from the three major credit reporting agencies.
- Pick up your mail daily.
- Mail bills at the post office; don’t leave them in your mailbox.
- Shred or tear up documents containing personal information before discarding.
- Store personal documents and account statements in a secure place in your home.

Other ways to protect your Social Security number:

- Don’t give out your Social Security number unless necessary.
- Don’t carry your Social Security card in your wallet.
- Don’t print your Social Security number on your checks.

Safeguard your Social Security number

Obtaining a fictitious driver’s license or ID card often is the first step taken by identity thieves. The Office of the Secretary of State has taken important steps to address identity theft by making driver’s licenses and state ID cards more secure.

The Secretary of State requires all driver’s license and state ID card applicants to have their Social Security numbers verified online with the Social Security Administration (SSA) before a license or ID card is issued. If the Social Security number of an applicant does not match up with the SSA, the applicant is refused a license or ID card.

Social Security numbers also are no longer printed on Illinois driver’s licenses or ID cards, making them a more secure means of identification for consumers and more difficult to use by identity thieves.

Follow these tips to protect your Social Security number:

- Don’t give out your Social Security number unless necessary.
- Don’t carry your Social Security card in your wallet.
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Jesse White
Secretary of State

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