

Identity Theft - Don't Lose Yourself

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With a little luck, maybe you can become the kind of person that you can respect. But nobody's perfect, so you'll have to come to terms with your own flaws. You spend your whole life creating your identity. Whether it's the car you drive or the clothes you wear, everything you do will help define your identity. Although there will be days when you wish you were somebody else, the majority of people grow to like and appreciate being their own unique person.

Like with most things, you don't appreciate what you have, until it's taken from you. And your identity is no different. Identity theft is not a new crime, but with the growth of the internet, it has taken on a new life. Identity theft occurs when someone commits a crime or harmful act, while pretending to be someone else. Identity theft covers a wide range of activities. The most common form of theft involves credit cards. Credit cards are the most common of the identity thefts, but it may be the easiest to notice, because people get credit card statements every month, so they can quickly identify any fraudulent charges.

Identity theft can also be used in cases of illegal immigration, terrorism and blackmail. Money isn't the only reason that identities are stolen. People may be trying to gain access to confidential information, or they maybe trying to hide their own criminal past. Many of the activities that people do in life, require some form of personal information. Whether it's getting a bank account, applying for a credit card, or going to see a doctor. Information given to private organizations are supposed to be confidential, but this information is usually stored on computers and computers can be hacked into.

But there's also a lot of public information that can be accessed. The government freely allows access to certain public records and these records include, driver's license information, business records, real estate records and other forms of data collected by government organizations. Unfortunately, many people have to share responsibility for their stolen information. Many people give out person information online and they have no idea how their information will be used, or if it will be sold.

It's impossible to keep all your information private, but there are some things you can do to help protect your interests. Don't give out your Social Security number, unless it's absolutely necessary. Shred documents that may contain personal information, before you throw them in the trash. Review your credit report at least once a year, to check for inaccuracies. And never give out personal information over the phone to strangers.

Identity theft can be a traumatic experience. Not only can you be ruined economically, but you could also be arrested for crimes, someone committed, under your identity. There are millions of people, that have their identities stolen, each year. The free flow of information is a great concept, but freedom comes with a price. People need to balance their desire for information with desire for security.

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Your Independent guide to Identity Theft