

Request Your Credit Report

The Sheriff's Office recommends that you request copies of your credit report at least once a year.

Credit reporting companies:

Equifax
1-800-685-1111

Experian
1-888-397-3742

Trans Union
1-800-888-4213

What to Do if Your Identity Has Been Stolen

Report the crime immediately to the police. If the crime took place in unincorporated Jefferson County, call 303-277-0211.

Report the crime to the Federal Trade Commission. You can report it online at www.ftc.gov or call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC does not resolve individual consumer disputes, but your report may help spot a pattern of violations requiring law enforcement action and may ultimately help solve your case.

Call your credit card company as soon as possible to dispute fraudulent charges. Familiarize yourself with your credit card company's liability policy; you can find it printed on the back of every credit card statement.

For more information on identity theft prevention, visit us online at www.jeffcosheriff.com



As law enforcement professionals, we pledge to serve the Jefferson County community, build trust and confidence, and respond to community needs with:

Integrity

We interact with each other and the community we serve with honesty, dignity, and respect.

Innovation

We respond to the community's needs with vision and initiative, relying on both traditional and non-traditional problem-solving methods.

Partnership

We actively promote a spirit of teamwork and cooperation through open communication and the free exchange of ideas.

Service

We continuously develop our skills and talents to provide top quality, responsive, effective law enforcement services.

Accountability

We ensure judicious management of human, financial, and physical resources.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Phone: 303.277.0211

Emergency: Dial 911

www.jeffcosheriff.com

I N V E S T I G A T I O N S

Identity Theft



It can happen to you.



Identity Theft Facts

It is estimated that as many as 750,000 people nationwide become victims of identity theft each year.

Identity theft is the biggest and fastest growing consumer problem in the state, according to the Colorado Attorney General's office.

Colorado is ranked 5th nationwide in the number of identity theft complaints to the Federal Trade Commission. It remains one of the only states without an identity theft law.

Victims of identity theft spend an average of three years and \$1,000 of their own money trying to amend their credit reports, deal with their creditors and work with law enforcement.

What is Identity Theft?
Identity theft is when someone fictitiously or without authorization assumes your identity, and in so doing subjects you to civil liability, criminal prosecution, collections, etc.

Most Common Forms of ID Theft in Jefferson County

Flagging: Identity thieves look for the raised flag on your mailbox. They take letters addressed to creditors that may contain checks and personal information. The thieves then "wash" checks and write their own name into the "Pay to the order of" line, and cash the check. It may take months to discover this form of identity theft.

Skimming: Skimming involves the use of a small electronic device to capture your account information from debit or credit cards. Skimmers can be handheld or affixed to ATM machines.

Dumpster Diving: Identity thieves search your discarded trash for pre-approved credit card applications or other personal financial documents, and then use the information therein to make purchases.

HOW TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING TO YOU

Do

Get a credit card with your photograph on the front.

Prevent pre-approved credit card offers from being sent to you by calling 1-888-5-OPT-OUT.

Read your credit card and bank statements thoroughly.

Pay with cash when in doubt.

Buy a shredder for personal or financial documents so that "dumpster-diving" criminals cannot find your discarded documents intact.

Order checks with chemically sensitive paper.

Don't

Don't put outgoing bills or mail containing checks in your home mailbox or blue curbside post office mailboxes. Going inside the post office or handing it to a mail carrier are the safest means.

Don't write your ATM PIN number on your card or carry your PIN in your wallet.

Don't provide personal identifying information over the phone or e-mail if you did not initiate the contact.

Don't use a ball-point pen to sign checks. The ink is easy for thieves to "wash." Use permanent ink.

Don't announce your name and phone number on your answering machine.

Don't order checks with pre-printed information such as your phone number, social security number or driver's license number.

Don't choose PIN numbers and passwords that are easy to guess, such as your mother's maiden name. Choose PIN number and passwords with combinations of letters and numbers.

Don't let your credit card out of your sight. At restaurants, pay a bartender or cashier whom you can watch, or pay with cash.

Don't carry your Social Security card.

Don't give out personal information while talking on a mobile phone in a public place.