

get a free credit report once per year. The big reporting agencies (Experian and TransUnion) provide free Credit consumers.

Protect your Social Security number.

Protect your Social Security card with your driver's license identification. For one thing they expect it to last a lifetime, the Social Security card is on very flimsy cardboard and does not hold up well to wear and tear. From that though, knowing your name, address, and full Social Security number, or even the last four digits in many cases, can let a thief steal your identity. You should use your Social Security number as part of a Username or

Emergency Contact

911
University Police Department:

Department:

ty Police



- For more information or assistance, please contact Albany State University Police Department at 229-430-4711.



504 College Drive, Albany, GA 31707
Phone (229) 430-4711

TIPS TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT



name? Birth date? Address? Family found information such as a couple other key pieces of info is the High School you went to, name, or your mother's maiden name. Someone might be able to access your records or establish new loans or credit.

Information can be pulled from your trash bin, a credit card swipe or simply write down the account number when you make a purchase. There are a variety of laws regarding customer information.

This page contains some tips you can follow to help protect your personal information and ensure that your identity or credit has not been compromised.

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Avoid shoulder-surfers. When entering a PIN number or a credit card number in an ATM machine, a public phone booth, or even on

the Internet, look at the signature block on the credit card, and a thief could just as easily use your credit card to make online or telephone purchases which don't require signature verification, but for those rare cases where they do actually verify the signature, you may get some added security by directing them to also make sure you match the picture on the photo ID.

- **Shred everything.** One of the ways that would-be identity thieves acquire information is through "dumpster diving", aka trash-picking. If you are throwing out bills and credit card statements, old credit card or ATM receipts, medical statements, or even junk-mail solicitations for credit cards and mortgages, you may be leaving too much information laying about. Buy a personal shredder and shred all papers with PII on them before disposing of them.
- **Destroy digital data.** When you sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of a computer system, or a hard drive, or even a recordable CD, DVD, or backup tape, take extra steps to ensure the data is completely, utterly, and irrevocably destroyed. To delete the data or reformat the hard drive is nowhere near

- **Be diligent about checks.** This actually has two benefits. If you are diligent about checks, your bank and credit statements will be aware if one is cashed before it arrives and that can alert you if someone stole it from you while it was in transit. So you can ensure that the charges, interest, and other entries on the statement will estimate and match up with what you know that you can quickly identify. Also, if you address any suspicious activity, you can be sure to pay your bills at the post office to leave your paid bills in your mailbox to be sent out. A thief who has access to your mailbox would be able to steal a lot of critical information including your name, address, credit card number, your bank information, your routing number and account number from the bottom of the envelope. A copy of your signature from the back of checks for forgery purposes, just in case.
- **Limit the information you share.** It may be convenient to share your driver's license number or Social Security number imprinted on your checks to save some time