

WHAT CRIMINAL STATUTES APPLY?

Identity theft is on the rise. Criminals, using a variety of methods, steal credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, ATM cards, social security numbers, telephone calling cards and other key pieces of individuals' identities. Criminals use this information to impersonate victims, spending as much money as they can in as short a period of time as possible. Victims are left with a damaged reputation, bad credit report, and must spend months or even years trying to regain their financial health.

The 1998 Kansas Legislature passed a criminal statute recognizing that persons who have their identities stolen are victims. Identity theft, KSA 21-4018, is a Level 7 Person Felony.

Other statutes that may apply are:

1. **Theft**
KSA 21-3701
2. **Making false information**
KSA 21-3711
3. **Forgery**
KSA 21-3710
4. **Insufficient funds checks**
KSA 21-3707
5. **False impersonation**
KSA 21-3824 (Government officer or licensed professional)
6. **Dealing in false identification documents**
KSA 21-3830

CREDIT REPORTING SERVICES

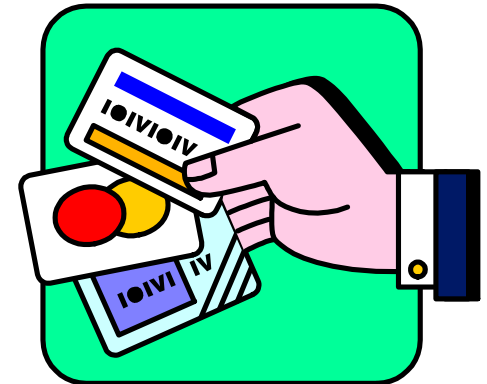
Experian 888-397-3742
Trans Union 800-680-7289
Equifax 800-525-6285

GOVERNMENT

Social Security Administration
800-269-0271

Protect Yourself From

IDENTITY THEFT



Provided by
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
1620 SW Tyler
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-8200

HOW IS MY PERSONAL INFORMATION USED?

- Obtain credit card(s) in your name. All that is needed is your name, address, social security number, and limited work history in most cases.
- Obtain loan(s) in your name. Most financial institutions will make small loans without collateral if the credit history associated with the name given is good.
- Open checking accounts in your name. With your information, checking accounts can be opened with little money in your name.
- Take a job in your name. Income tax collectors will want to know why you did not declare the additional income on your last income tax return.
- Obtain a duplicate driver's license in your name, allowing someone to drive and receive traffic tickets in your name.
- Your reputation can be used to facilitate any number of transactions, which will be designed in the end to con someone out of money, and you won't know anything about it.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

- Don't use your social security number as your driver's license number.
- Don't leave mail in your residential mailbox.
- Don't store any personal information or account numbers on computers with modems.
- Don't carry personal information or account numbers in your wallet or purse.
- Take ATM, credit card and other receipts with you, and either save them in a safe place or destroy them.
- Shred documents which could contain personal information.
- Don't give any part of your social security number or personal account numbers over the phone.
- Never put your account number on an envelope or a postcard.
- Keep a record of your credit card numbers, their expiration dates, and the telephone numbers of each company for reporting losses.
- If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, you may request, in accordance with Section 612 of the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, a free copy of your credit report from the three major credit reporting agencies. (Listed on the back of this publication).
- Open billing statements promptly and compare them with your receipts. If there are any mistakes, report them, in writing, immediately.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'VE BEEN VICTIMIZED?

- File a report with the police immediately.
- Cancel each credit card, and get new cards with new account numbers.
- Report missing cards to the three major credit reporting services.
- Report the loss to your bank. Cancel checking and savings accounts and open new ones. Stop payments on all outstanding checks.
- Get a new ATM card, account number and PIN or password.
- Call your utilities, including your phone company. Inform them someone may try to get new service using your identification.
- Report your missing driver's license to the Department of Motor Vehicles, and get a new driver's license that does not list your social security number as the driver's license number.
- Change the locks on your home and car if your keys were stolen.

