



Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. While you cannot entirely control whether you will become a victim, there are steps you can take to minimize your risk.

The following link is to the FTC homepage, which contains the most recent and up to date information on protecting yourself from this crime:

http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/con_minimize.htm#military

Special Protections for Military Members: ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY ALERT

Members of the U.S. military that are away from their *normal duty station* can place an active duty alert on their credit reports to minimize the risk of identity theft while deployed. This will remove you from the credit reporting companies' marketing list for pre-screened credit card offers for two years unless you request to be taken off of the list at an earlier date. The alerts can also be extended if your deployment will last longer than one year.

The company you call is required to contact the other two, which will place an alert on their versions of your report, too.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com; P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742); www.experian.com; P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com; Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

FILING COMPLAINTS

IF you believe you have been the victim of Identity Theft, consider reporting the incident to the FTC. *The FTC does NOT resolve individual complaints*, but your complaint helps the FTC investigate fraud and can lead to law enforcement action. The FTC also

compiles this information in a nationwide database that helps local law enforcement police these crimes.

The following link will take you to an online FTC form that will only take you a few minutes to complete.

[https://rn.ftc.gov/pls/dod/widtpubl\\$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU03](https://rn.ftc.gov/pls/dod/widtpubl$.startup?Z_ORG_CODE=PU03)