



# IFI Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter from Identity Fraud, Inc.

## ISSUE #9 - July 2004

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### Oklahoma Governor Signs ID Theft Bill

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry signed Senate Bill 1164 to help protect victims of identity theft. According to State Senator Mike Johnson who is the principal author of the bill, it creates an "Identity Theft Passport" to protect innocent victims from arrest or other legal actions.

Senator Johnson wrote the bill after hearing what happened to a constituent who had been a victim of identity theft. Her purse had been stolen and the thief used the information in the purse to set up credit card accounts in her name. The victim notified all the companies, state and federal agencies necessary, but unfortunately two years later she was arrested on a warrant out of Florida for credit card fraud. She was in jail for 18 hours before she was released. After being released she was told that it could happen again. That is when she went to Senator Johnson.

The new law calls for the creation of a special passport for victims of identity theft to use with law enforcement and other public safety authorities.

In order to qualify for the passport, the victim must file an identity theft report with a federal, state or local law enforcement agency and provide the report, an identity theft affidavit and supporting documentation to a consumer-reporting agency.

### Free Credit Reports Available On The Following Dates (As Estimated By The FTC)

December 2004 – AL, AR, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

March '05 – IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

June '05 – AL, AK, FL, GA, KT, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN, TX

September '05 – CO, DE, DC, MA, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV, Puerto Rico and US territories

### President Bush Signs New Legislation

President Bush signed new legislation into law that creates stiffer penalties for criminals who use stolen identities in committing felony crimes. **"The crime of identity theft undermines the basic trust on which our economy depends"**

— President George W. Bush

Those convicted under this new statute will have a mandatory penalty of two years in federal prison added to their sentence. An extra five years is mandated for anyone convicted of using stolen identities in connection with terrorism.

The new law also mandates additional prison time for theft of personal information in the workplace. Recent research out of Michigan State University has found that up to 70 percent of all identity theft cases originate with information stolen by company insiders.

## NYU Phases Out SSNs as University IDs

A long overdue change is coming to one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious private Universities. New York University will phase in a new University identification card — and phase out the University's longstanding practice of using Social Security numbers (SSNs) to identify students, faculty, and staff.

NYU first set out to develop a new system of University Identification Numbers (UIDs) several years ago, with the goal of replacing SSNs as identification numbers in University records. "We had been looking at swapping out Social Security numbers for a new system for some time," said John Beckman, Vice President for Public Affairs at NYU. "We had significant upgrades planned for our computer systems, and originally intended to make the ID changeover after those upgrades were complete. But there were two incidents in which web applications developed by units of the University had failed to set the proper security settings. That increased the focus on finding a new system for the University ID number. In other circumstances, we might have waited until all these other changes had been put into place."

One result of the two incidents is that virtually no one at NYU questions the need to replace the SSN-based ID system.

## NYU (Continued)

NYU's new system uses a nine-character alphanumeric beginning with the letter N and followed by eight randomly assigned numbers. All NYU students, faculty, administrators, and staff will be assigned a new UID. Then, over the next few months, the old ID cards will be replaced and disabled.

"The new ID cards contain only the new number," explained NYU's John Beckman, "but during the transition, the related databases will be carrying both." In the course of the transition period, Beckman says, NYU "will eclipse the pieces of the system that use Social Security numbers." The changeover will require several months to complete, partly because so many people are involved. "After all, NYU has about 39,000 students," Beckman points out, "and is the sixth-largest employer in New York City."

"We'll also be working with faculty over the course of the fall," Beckman continued, "providing professional training to ensure that Social Security numbers are no longer used in attendance, grade posting, and other classroom procedures." In addition, NYU will emphasize to its webmasters that it is no longer necessary or appropriate to ask web visitors to provide Social Security numbers as identification.

**IDENTITY FRAUD, INC.**

***Engaging Solutions for Identity Protection!***

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