



IFI Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter from Identity Fraud, Inc.

ISSUE #6 - October 2003

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New Offerings - Family Plan...

Identity Fraud, Inc. strives to maintain its leadership position in providing our members with the most comprehensive protection available in the market today while maintaining competitive pricing.

We are proud to introduce our new Family Protection Plan that is available to new and existing members at renewal.

The new Family Plan includes protection for the primary member and one family member, all for \$59.95 a year. The limit of identity insurance included with the Plan is \$50,000, which is \$25,000 per member. Credit solutions, like credit reports and monitoring tools, are not included but can still be purchased separately at a discount in the Members Section of our website.

As another added benefit, we have expanded the definition of "Family" to include domestic partners, significant others, children, parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. You can add family members for only \$19.95 per year by logging into the Members Section and clicking onto the "Manage My Account" tab. Each family member receives their own plan benefits and limits of identity insurance protection of \$25,000.

We created the new plan to pass along savings to our members as well as offer a comprehensive solution to members who may not have Internet access.

Prevention Tips

1. Know where your credit cards and identification are at all times
2. Check your credit report with all 3 bureaus at least once a year
3. Change your pin numbers and passwords regularly
4. Review your IFI Loss Prevention Guide at least once a year

Financial Institutions Make it Easier to Report Identity Theft

A new program announced by the financial services community is intended to allow identity theft victims to alert financial institutions, credit bureaus and credit companies with a single phone call and to close financial accounts.

The Financial Services Roundtable, which represents 100 institutions handling about 70 percent of the economy's financial transactions, is creating an Identity Theft Assistance Center to help fight the rising incidence of the crime.

The program is scheduled to begin on May 1, 2004. The program does not prevent identity theft and may not include your financial institution. It also requires you to share sensitive information to the group. Because identity theft will still occur, it remains important to maintain your membership with Identity Fraud, Inc.,

We emphasize not sharing your information with non-affiliated companies and are here to assist you no matter where you bank, giving you more flexibility to do business with whom you choose

Identity Theft Creates Havoc for Victims

Reported October 16th in The Desert Sun in Palm Springs, CA.

A multi-agency investigation into identity thefts has yielded about 10 arrests in Desert Hot Springs so far and has uncovered an estimated \$100,000 in losses in the Coachella Valley since April.

Investigators are continuing to pursue what has become a nationwide problem and more search warrants will be served in the near future.

Shawna Van Camp didn't know someone had stolen her identity until investigator Frank Durazo contacted her about a bounced check.

"I've never written a bad check in my whole life," Van Camp said.

Police believed her, but convincing the companies who accepted the checks has not been quite as easy.

Nearly four months after her identity was stolen, Van Camp is still dealing with the red tape and paperwork associated with clearing her name financially.

"I don't have the energy to do it anymore," she said. "I have a file that is probably two inches thick of paperwork."

For the full story go to:

<http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories2003/local/20031016040344.shtml>

Florida Issues Certificate to Identity Theft Victim

The state of Florida has launched a program aimed at curtailing identity theft and assist victims in restoring their name and credit rating.

In addition, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will now issue documents designed to help victims prove to potential employers, landlords or others that they did not commit crimes that wrongly show up in background checks.

"It's very important to prosecute those who commit this kind of crime, but it's equally important to make sure we help out the victims in the interim so they can get their good name clear so they can have their credit restored and they can go on with their lives," said Attorney General Charlie Crist.

FDLE Commissioner Guy Tunnell gave the first "Compromised Identity Certificate" to identity theft victim Phil Sapienza. He started receiving letters from lawyers asking if he needed help after his arrest. A Publix supermarket later refused to accept his checks. He then applied for a job at a hospital and it took two months to prove he did not commit several crimes that showed up on a background check.

"I could have just shown this to them and it would have been accepted and I would have been working there a long time ago," said Sapienza, holding up his certificate.

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Engaging Solutions for Identity Protection!

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