

FRAUD ALERT

“Uniquely Me” - Safeguarding Your Identity

Did you get a written notice from the IRS or find accounts on your credit report that you are not familiar with? Have you been looking at your bank statements for unusual withdrawals? We at the Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force warn residents these are among the many ways in which you may discover that someone is using your information. If you become a victim of identity theft, take the following steps immediately in an effort to limit the damage that can result:

- ✓ Take a deep breath.
- ✓ Call the companies where you know that the fraud occurred.
- ✓ Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and get copies of those reports at 1-877-322- 8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com .You will need to share your social security number.
- ✓ File a report with your local police department at its non-emergency phone number you probably will find in the phone book or online. Get and keep a copy of the police report for your records.
- ✓ Report identity theft to the FTC https://www.identitytheft.gov/?utm_source=takeaction
- ✓ Call Bucks County Consumer protection at 1-800-942-2669 if you have any questions or concerns

Now it's time to repair the damage. Depending on the severity of your situation, the next steps you may want to consider are:

- ✓ Closing any accounts that are opened in your name or
- ✓ Report fraudulent charges to your credit card company

Take Steps to Reduce Future Risk:

- ✓ Read your credit card and bank statements carefully. Ask your financial institution what options they have available to alert you of unusual activity on your accounts.
- ✓ Know your payment due dates. If you are expecting a bill and it doesn't show up, look into that.
- ✓ Carefully read statements from your health insurance provider- make sure that the claims match the services that you received.
- ✓ Shred any documents that contain personal and/or financial information.
- ✓ Review each of your three credit reports at least once a year. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com to get your free reports.

Call Bucks County Consumer protection at 1-800-942-2669 if you have any questions or concerns. For more prevention tips and resources visit <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft> and/or

<http://www.buckscounty.org/government/CommunityServices/ConsumerProtection/Tips/IdentityTheftCredit>

Monthly Fraud Alerts provided by...

BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE

Bucks County District Attorney's Office

215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

215-348-0510

Bucks County Coroner's Office

215-348-3852

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)

1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place (AWP)

1-800-220-8116

Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection

1-800-942-2669

Bucks County Register of Wills

215-348-6265

www.crimesagainstolderadultsbucks.org

24 - HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-490-8505