

Tip of the Month – October 2010

Learning About Identity Theft -3

In “Learning about Identity Theft -1” (See our Tip of the Month April 2010) we saw how identity theft occurs. If you become a victim of identity theft, here are a few tips to help you recover from this bad situation:-

- Report the crime to the police immediately. Ask for a copy of the police report so that you can provide proof of the theft to the organizations that you will have to contact later.[
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- Take steps to undo the damage[
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- Document the steps you take and expenses you incur to clear your name and re-establish your credit.[
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- Cancel your credit cards and get new ones issued. Ask the creditors about accounts tampered with or open fraudulently in your name.[
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- Close your bank accounts and open new ones. Insist on password-only access to them.[
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- Get new bank machine (ATM) and telephone calling cards, with new passwords or personal identification numbers.[
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- In the case of passport theft, advise the Passport Office.[
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- Advise your telephone, cable, and utilities providers that someone using your name could try to open new accounts fraudulently.[
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- Get a new driver's licence.[
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If you suspect that someone has been using your NIB number to get a job, or that your ID information has been compromised in some other way, be sure to follow up and get to the bottom of the problem to find out what is really going on.

Putting everything in perspective, you almost need a new life if you become a victim of identity theft.

So guard your identity to the utmost to avoid the potential problems which can be avoided by being very careful about your personal information.

Feel free to email us at dataprotection@bahamas.gov.bs

Remember, we welcome your complaints and are happy to address your data protection (privacy) concerns!