

IDENTITY THEFT



Issues for SENIORS and CAREGIVERS

Presented by Kate Deaver



Awareness

* *Everyone*

* *Caretakers*

* **Inform**

* **Protect**



Information

Federal Trade Commission

- ☐ **Information Source**
- ☐ **Report ID Theft**
- ☐ **Provide Statistics**
 - **Law Enforcement**
 - **Government Agencies**
 - **Public**

Reporting

* Various Reasons

➤ Fail to Report

- Don't want to get anyone in trouble
- Not worth the bother
- Won't matter



Reporting

*Seniors

➤ **Fail to Report**

- **Responsible**
- **At Fault**



Emotional Impact

***Embarrassed**

***Gullible**

***Incapable**



Remember!

***It is not
Your Fault -***



Remember!

- ***When Someone Else
Breaks the Law!***



AVOID! ID THEFT

• ***Be
Informed!***

- **Avoid Financial Loss**
- **Avoid Emotional Impact**
- **Avoid Becoming a Victim**



Five Basics

1. Victims?
2. Thieves?
3. Your Info?
4. Use It?
5. Take Action?



1. Who are the Victims?

23% over age 50

Age 50 to 59 = 13%

Age 60 to 64 = 4%

Over 65 = 6%



Why Seniors?

- *Excellent Credit**
- *Social Security Checks**
- *More Savings**
- *No Mortgage**



Why Seniors?

More Trusting

Not Quickly Informed



2. Who are the Thieves?

16% Someone you know!

48% Female

**8% Friend, Neighbor or
In-home Employee**

6% Family



CAUTION!

Avoid Suspicion

- *Documentation

- *Communication



3. How they get your info?

56% Do Not Know



3. How they get your info?

- 📁 **In Your Home**
- 📁 **Lost /Stolen Purse or Wallet**
- 📁 **Trash / Dumpster Diving**
- 📁 **Call Centers**
- 📁 **Computer Databases**
 - **Government**
 - **Banks**
 - **Data Brokers**
 - **Schools**



4. How they use it?

7 Categories



4. How they use it?

1. Employment

- **Your Social Security Number provided to Their Employer**
- **Effect:**
- **Reported on Employment Record**
- **Reported to IRS as Income**
 - **Pay more taxes**
 - **Ineligible for benefits.**



4. How they use it?

2. Credit Cards

- **Charges to Existing Account**
 - **Change of Address**
 - **Over Limit and Late Fees**
- **Open a New Account**
 - **Collection**
 - **Credit Report**

4. How they use it?

3. Other

- **Medical**
- **Apartment Rental**
- **Home Purchase**
- **Insurance – Car, etc.**
- **Criminal Activity**
- **Internet**



4. How they use it?

4. Banks

- **Open New Accounts**
 - **NSF Checks**
- **Use Existing Accounts**
 - **Check Washing**
 - **Electronic Funds**

4. How they use it?

5. Utilities

- **Cell Phone**
- **Home Phone**
- **Satellite or Cable**
- **Electric or Gas**



4. How they use it?

6. Loans

- **Auto Loan or Lease**
- **Real Estate**
- **Business**
- **Personal**
- **Student**



4. How they use it?

7. Government Documents

- **Tax Returns**
- **Drivers License**
- **Passports**
- **Benefits**
 - **Food Stamp**
 - **Medicare**
 - **Social Security, Etc.**

5. When to Take Action?

NOW!

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL
YOU BECOME A VICTIM!**



5. What Action to Take?

**10 Tactics
to prevent
Identity Theft**



10 Tactics

1. Protect Your Social Security Number!

- ☐ **Ask Questions:**
 - ☐ **Why is SSN Needed?**
 - ☐ **How Will It be Used?**
 - ☐ **How is It Protected?**
 - ☐ **What Happens if Don't Provide It?**
 - ☐ **Can a Different Number be Used?**



10 Tactics

2. Secure the Home Front

- ☐ **Store in Safe Place**
- ☐ **Lock Box**
- ☐ **Include:**
 - ☐ **Checkbooks**
 - ☐ **Social Security cards**
 - ☐ **Copies of Credit Cards**
 - ☐ **Tax Returns**
 - ☐ **Other Important Papers**



10 Tactics

3. Check Credit Reports

- ☐ **Obtain Once Year**
 - ☐ **Three Agencies**
 - ☐ **Stagger / One per Quarter**
- ☐ **Call: 1-800-322-8228**
- ☐ **Write: Call to request form**
- ☐ **Website:**
www.annualcreditreport.com



10 Tactics

4. Credit Report Protection

- ☐ **Credit Freeze**
 - ☐ **Restricts Access**
 - ☐ **Allowed for Everyone**
 - ☐ **Extreme Measure**
 - ☐ **Last Indefinitely**
 - ☐ **Fee to Remove**
 - ☐ **Update Contact Info**



10 Tactics

5. Be Cautious of Unknown:

- ☐ **Do Not Give Out Personal Information to Unexpected Callers**
- ☐ **Do Not Respond to Letters from Unconfirmed Sources**
- ☐ **Do Not Answer the Door if you Feel Unsafe – Door to Door Scams**



10 Tactics

6. Opt Out

- ☐ **Credit Card Offers**

- ☐ **1-888-567-8688**

- ☐ **Telemarketing Calls**

- ☐ **1-888-382-1222**

- ☐ **Junk Mail**

- ☐ **Direct Marketing Association
1120 Ave of the Americas
New York, NY 10036**



10 Tactics

7. Keep Credit Cards and Identification Close

- ☐ **Swiping**
- ☐ **Ensure Returned**

10 Tactics

8. Practice Safe Shopping.

- ☐ **Don't Leave Purse Unattended**
- ☐ **Be Aware of Surroundings**
- ☐ **Pay with Credit Card and
Payoff Each Month.**



10 Tactics

9. Use Safe Checks and Pens

- ☐ **Avoid Check Washing**
- ☐ **Don't Preprint**
 - ☐ **Social Security Number**
 - ☐ **Driver's License Number**



10 Tactics

10. Guard Your Mail

- ☐ **Locked Mailbox**
- ☐ **Don't Use Red Flag**
- ☐ **Shred Everything**

More Information

The More You Know About Identity Theft:

- ☐ **Less Likely you will
become a Victim!**
- ☐ **Less Likely you will
be caught in a Scam!**



More Information

For more information:

www.identitytheftcounseling.org

www.ftc.gov/idtheft

www.consumer.gov/idtheft



More Information

**For assistance in resolving an
Identity Theft issue contact:**

**Consumer Credit Counseling
Service of Greater San Antonio**

1-800-410-2227

210-979-4330



www.cccssa.org

