

# HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION

2015-0681

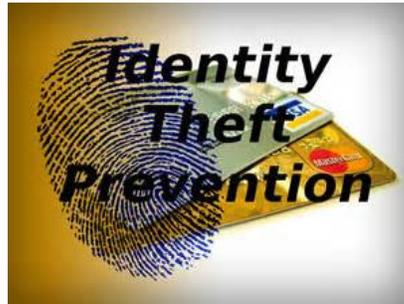
HONOR



COURAGE



INTEGRITY



**Chief of Police**  
Jeffrey Adickes

The Harlingen Police Department would like to remind our community that anyone can be a victim of Identity Theft. Identity thieves use personal information (such as name, birth date, Social Security number, Birth Certificates, passports, bank account or credit card numbers) to commit other crimes. Identity thieves obtain identifying information in many different ways, such as through the mail, email fraud, website spoofing, telemarketing fraud, burglary and theft. Identity Theft is a serious crime and it can cause financial difficulties for the victims, which can take months or even years to clean up.

**Deputy Chief**  
Michael Kester

**Deputy Chief**  
Luciano Rubio

### Identity Theft Prevention tips:

- Keep your Social Security card/ birth certificate / passport locked in a safe place when not needed. Do not carry them in your purse or wallet.
- Install a firewall system on your computers and electronic devices.
- Do not provide your personal information over the phone or via email to anyone you do not know.
- Beware of anyone standing too close behind you when you are using your credit card or writing a check.
- Check your credit report on a regular basis, or consider signing up for a credit alert service.
- Do not leave ID cards, Social Security Cards, passports or Birth certificates inside your vehicles.

**Deputy Chief**  
Hector Leal

**P.I.O. Sergeant**  
John Parrish

**P.I.O. Sergeant**  
David Osborne

### If you think you have been a victim of Identity Theft:

- Contact the fraud Department of one of the major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file.
- Close accounts that have been tampered with.
- File a Police report.
- File complaint with Federal Trade Commission (FTC).



Harlingen Police Department  
1018 Fair Park Boulevard  
Harlingen, Texas 78550  
956.216.5401 – [www.myharlingen.us](http://www.myharlingen.us)

