

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2016-0093

HONOR



COURAGE



INTEGRITY



Identity Theft is a form of criminal activity that is increasing throughout the United States and affects thousands of people every year. Identity Theft occurs when someone steals or acquires personal information and then uses without consent or authorization. Identity Theft can damage your finances, credit report and your reputation.

Warning Signs:

- Mistakes on accounts or Explanation of Medical Benefits
- Regular bills go missing
- Calls from Debt collectors for debts that are not yours
- Notice from IRS (incorrect work history)
- Calls or mail about accounts in your child's name

Identity Thieves obtain Personal Information through many different ways, such as:

- Going through your trash looking for receipts, bills, credit applications, etc.
- Trick you into revealing information (telemarketing scams, etc.)
- Steal wallet or purse
- Pretend to offer a job, loan, prize, or apartment to get your information
- Phishing – Internet fraudsters impersonate a business to trick you into giving out personal information. Don't reply to emails, texts, or pop-up messages that ask for personal or financial information. Don't click on links within them either – even if the message seems to be from an organization you trust. Legitimate businesses don't ask you to send sensitive information through unsecured channels.

Reduce your Risk of Becoming an Identity Theft Victim:

- Know and verify legitimacy of who is getting your personal information
- Don't click on links in emails
- Contact customer service in the event you receive emails on any accounts that seem suspicious. Emails can look like they are from a reputable business and then the links send you to a phony/fraudulent site designed to steal your information

Who should you contact for help?

Local Law Enforcement Agency :

- File a Criminal Report
- Monitor the activity
- update report as needed
- request a copy of the report

Other Services to Call:

Federal Trade Commission 1-877-438-4338
Equifax 1-800-525-6285
Experian 1-888-397-3742
TransUnion 1-800-680-7289



Chief of Police
Jeffrey Adickes

Assistant Chief
Michael Kester

Executive Staff

Deputy Chief
Luciano Rubio

Deputy Chief
Hector Leal

Interim Deputy Chief
Ray Cavazos

Deputy Administrator
Diane L. Sanchez

Public Information
PIO Staff

Sergeant
John Parrish

Sergeant
David Osborne

Officer
Larry Moore

Officer
Orlando Gonzales



Harlingen Police Department
1018 Fair Park Boulevard
Harlingen, Texas 78550
956.216.5401 – www.myharlingen.us

