



New York State Comptroller
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Focus on Identity Theft

IDENTITY THEFT IS
SKYROCKETING.
THE CONSEQUENCES ARE REAL.

IDENTITY THEFT
REPORTS INCREASED
200%

in New York State between
2019 and 2021.

(Source: Federal Trade Commission)



You probably know or have heard about someone whose personal information was stolen to file false unemployment claims or credit card applications or to gain access to bank or social media accounts. The consequences of identity theft can be devastating for victims, ranging from having to rebuild a ruined credit history to having trouble renting an apartment or buying a home, obtaining a tax benefit or receiving a loan. Comptroller DiNapoli's report, **The Increasing Threat of Identity Theft** (osc.state.ny.us/reports/increasing-threat-identity-theft), provides more information on this important issue.

Here are ways to protect yourself from identity theft:

- Leave Social Security cards home; carry only the credit and bank cards you need.
- Avoid giving out personal information on the phone, email or social media.
- Check bank and credit statements and credit reports regularly.
- Shred financial documents when no longer needed.
- Use two-factor authentication for online security.
- Use strong passwords or a password manager; change passwords frequently.
- Use only secure online shopping sites; look for secure URL beginning with "https" (rather than "http") and a lock icon near browser location field. (🔒 osc.state.ny.us)
- Don't click on links received in unsolicited email.

Resources

Federal Resources

Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

File complaints and create a personal recovery plan: <https://www.identitytheft.gov/#/>.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ): More information on identity theft at

www.justice.gov/criminal-fraud/identity-theft/identity-theft-and-identity-fraud.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): Links and resources on identity theft and tax-related fraud assistance at

www.irs.gov/identity-theft-central.

State Resources

Office of the New York State Comptroller:

Report allegations of fraud involving taxpayer money by calling the Fraud Hotline at 1-888-672-4555, by filing a complaint online at www.osc.state.ny.us/investigations/complaint-form, or by mailing a complaint to: Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Investigations, 8th Floor, 110 State St., Albany, NY 12236.

Read the Comptroller's Identity Theft report at: www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/increasing-threat-identity-theft

NYS Department of Labor:

If you receive official communication from the DOL regarding unemployment benefits for which you did not apply, you can report suspected fraud to: <https://dol.ny.gov/report-fraud>.

NYS Office of the Attorney General:

Prosecutes individuals and businesses engaged in fraudulent trade practices and provides information to consumers.

For information on identity theft, visit the Office's Consumer Fraud Bureau's webpage at

ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft, or call the Office's General Helpline at 800-771-7755.

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance:

Help for tax fraud victims. Visit

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/help/contact/fraud/identity-theft.htm> to learn more.

NYS Department of State, Division of Consumer

Protection: Resolves consumer complaints. Visit [dos.](http://dos.ny.gov/dealing-damage-steps-take-if-you-fall-victim-identity-theft)

[ny.gov/dealing-damage-steps-take-if-you-fall-victim-identity-theft](http://dos.ny.gov/dealing-damage-steps-take-if-you-fall-victim-identity-theft).

For links to all resources listed on this page:

