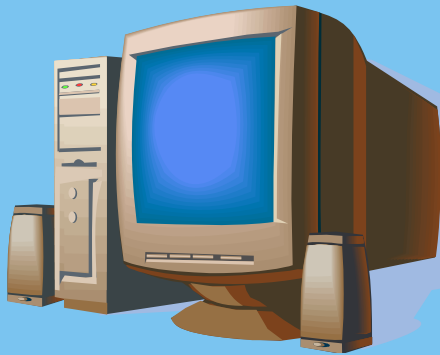


Identity Theft and Cybersafety

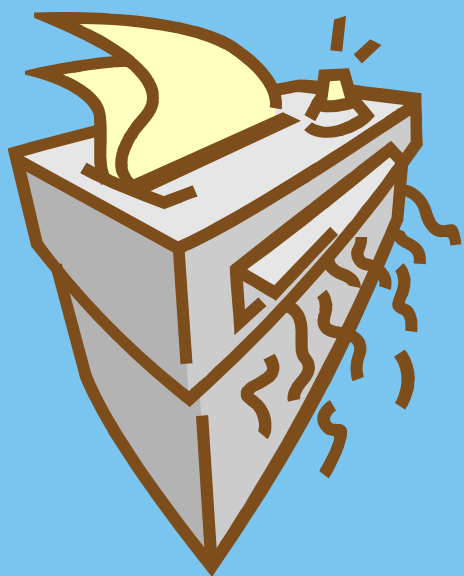
1



National Crime Prevention Council

Identity Theft

2

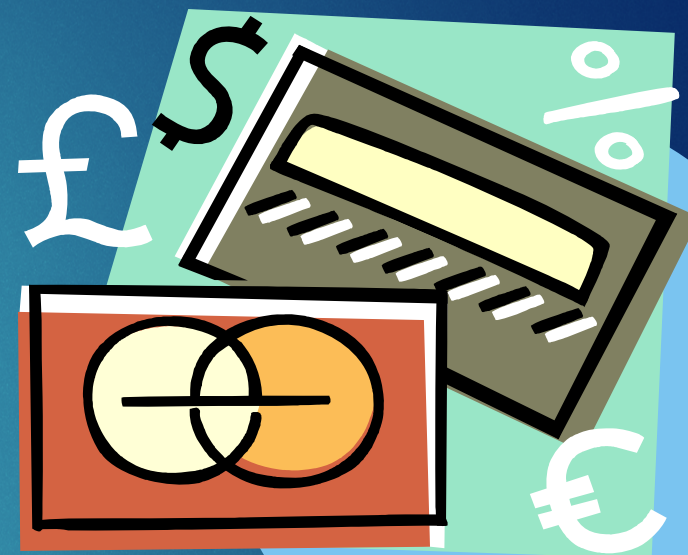


- ▶ Don't give out personal information over the phone.
- ▶ Shred all documents, especially those containing credit card offers or other personal information.
- ▶ Don't use your mother's maiden name as a password.
- ▶ Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry.

Identity Theft (continued)

3

- ▶ Don't carry your Social Security card, birth certificate, or passport with you, unless absolutely necessary.
- ▶ Don't put your telephone number or Social Security number on checks.
- ▶ Pay attention to your billing cycles.
- ▶ Obtain a copy of your credit report twice a year.



Your Credit Report

- ▶ You should check your credit report at least twice a year. The three major credit bureaus are

- Equifax: www.equifax.com
- Trans Union: www.transunion.com
- Experian: www.experian.com

- ▶ The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows you to get one free credit report from each of the credit bureaus once per year.

- For more information visit www.annualcreditreport.com

Cybersafety

- ▶ Be cautious before giving out your name and personal information to others online.
- ▶ Be careful about sending personal information over the Internet, by email, or over cellular phones.
- ▶ Don't use passwords that are obvious.
- ▶ Avoid break-ins by changing your password regularly and memorizing it.
- ▶ Shop online with companies that you know.
- ▶ Look for the "lock" icon on the webpage.



Cybersafety (continued)

6

- ▶ Use a secure browser that will encrypt or scramble purchase information.
- ▶ Be cautious before agreeing to meet face-to-face with someone you've met online.
- ▶ Be careful before responding to messages from unfamiliar persons.
- ▶ Look for webpages that have a proper title, additional resources, or a person that you are able to contact.

