

# Identity safety

Identity theft occurs when a person takes another person's identifying information to commit theft or fraud.




If a crime is happening now,  
call **Triple Zero (000)**.  
If not, think **Policelink**  
report **online** or via **131 444**.

Find us at

[www.police.qld.gov.au](http://www.police.qld.gov.au)

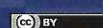
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## What you can do

There are a number of simple safeguards you can take to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft.

- Place passwords on all of your important documents.
- When creating a password, avoid using obvious passwords such as telephone numbers, birthdates or your mother's maiden name.
- Avoid using the same password on multiple accounts.
- Change your password regularly.
- Don't allow your computer to store your password.
- Secure all your personal information at home in a lockable filing cabinet or safe.
- Never carry your PIN number in your wallet with your ATM card.
- Avoid carrying documents such as your passport or birth certificate unless absolutely necessary. Try taking photos on your phone instead.
- Before discarding old bills, records or expired cards, ensure any identifying information is destroyed. Consider investing in a paper shredder for your home.
- Avoid providing personal information by phone, mail or online and ensure you know who you are dealing with before giving out personal information.
- Make sure your letterbox is secure and lockable and only post mail at official Australia Post boxes.
- Carefully check all transactions on your banking and credit card accounts each month to monitor for potential fraudulent transactions.
- Follow up if bills don't arrive on time or you don't receive an invoice.
- If you lose your wallet or purse, notify your bank immediately to protect your accounts.

## Remember

Identity theft and fraud have become some of the fastest growing crimes in the world. Identity theft and fraud can happen quickly and easily and most often you will not know you have fallen victim until after the fact.

Unsolicited offers which seem too good to be true or require you to give out bank account details or other personal information are likely to be scams.

**Prevention Together**  
Prevent | Disrupt | Respond | Investigate

