



Identity Theft Guide

Est. December 2024

Our department has introduced an Identity Theft Guide to aid you in effectively reporting identity theft.

Identity theft is a term used to refer to crimes in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's information (e.g., name, Social Security number, bank account numbers) in a way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain.

Texas Penal Code 32.51. Fraudulent Use or Possession of Identifying Information

Are you a Victim of Identity Theft? Here's what to do

1. Contact the companies where you know the fraud occurred (e.g., Time Warner Cable)
2. Place a fraud alert and get your credit reports. A free credit report can be requested from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion by going to annualcreditreport.com or calling 1-877-322-8228. A fraud alert is free and can be done through one of the following companies:
 - Experian.com/fraudalert **1-888-397-3742**
 - TransUnion.com/fraud **1-800-680-7289**
 - Equifax.com/CreditReportAssistance **1-888-766-0008**
3. Report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission by going to IdentityTheft.gov or calling 1-877-438-4338. You should provide as much information as possible. An Identity Theft Report and personal recovery plan will then be created.
4. File a police report.

Police Report Requirements

- Government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport.
- A copy of your FTC Identity Theft Report is recommended but not required.
- Credit reports showing any fraudulent activity or unauthorized accounts opened in your name.
- Bank statements or financial records demonstrating any unauthorized transactions or charges.
- Detailed information about the identity theft incident, including dates, affected accounts, and any known suspects.
- Any correspondence or documentation related to the identity theft incident, such as letters from creditors or collection agencies.

Police Report Filing Methods Available

- Phone reporting: Contact (956)548-7169 or (956)548-7166
- Police call for service: Contact (956)548-7000 option 0
- In-person reporting: Visit the Brownsville Police Department Information Booth at 600 East Jackson St., Brownsville, Texas 78520
- Online reporting: Visit [Online Reporting | bpdtx](#)

Once you file a police report, you can follow up with a Criminal Investigations Unit Investigator if you wish to pursue criminal charges. This can be done by coming to the Brownsville Police Department during intake hours Monday-Friday from 9 AM-5 PM. If you file a police report for documentation purposes only, no further contact is necessary.