

# HELP FOR IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS



## Identity Theft Unit

The Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section created an Identity Theft Unit to assist victims in rectifying the effects of identity theft by working with creditors, collectors, and other entities that may have fraudulent information. The unit currently offers two programs:

### Traditional Assistance

- A consumer advocate works with credit agencies, creditors, collectors, or other organizations on the victim's behalf.
- Individuals must submit a Notification Form\*, Affidavit\*, and police report to participate in this program.
- This option is ideal for those who are not comfortable trying to correct the effects of identity theft by themselves.

### Self-Help Assistance

- Victims receive a step-by-step guide — including form letters and contact information — to dispute details on credit reports, dispute charges, or take other action on their own.
- Individuals must submit a Self-Help Notification Form\* to participate in this program.
- This option is ideal for those who prefer to work at their own pace and contact credit reporting agencies and creditors themselves.

\* These forms are available online at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/IdentityTheft](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/IdentityTheft).

### Immediate Steps for Victims of Identity Theft

- File a police report.
- Place an initial fraud alert on your credit report by contacting the credit reporting agencies listed below. An initial fraud alert is free to place on your credit report, lasts for 90 days, and makes it very difficult for someone to open credit in your name.
- Close any accounts that have been opened fraudulently, and alert banks and credit card companies to the identity theft.
- Obtain a copy of your credit report(s) at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).
- If there are lingering effects of the identity theft, enroll in either the Traditional or Self-Help Program of the Attorney General's Identity Theft Unit by submitting the required forms.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- Attorney General's Office, **800-282-0515** or [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)
- Annual Credit Report, **877-322-8228** or [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)
- Equifax, **800-525-6285** or [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
- Experian, **888-397-3742** or [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- TransUnion, **800-680-7289** or [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)



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