



## Essex Police Department Identity Theft Victim's Packet

### Information and Instructions

This packet should be completed once you have contacted the Essex Police Department and obtained a police report number related to your identity theft case. **\*Important** – You must either be a resident of Essex or Essex Junction Vermont or be able to show that the fraud/theft occurred in Essex or Essex Junction Vermont to file a report with the Essex Police Department. To obtain a police report number, call the Essex Police Department at 802-878-8331. Please keep track of your report number, as creditors, financial institutions and credit reporting agencies will ask for it.

My Essex Police Department report number is:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ ES \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

This packet is for you to keep and contains information to assist you in the correction of your credit and to help ensure that you are not responsible for the debts incurred by the identity theft. In addition, this packet includes information that will allow you to obtain financial records related to the fraudulent accounts and provide those records to law enforcement, without which we cannot conduct an investigation for prosecution. We recognize that some victims are only interested in the correction of their credit and do not necessarily wish for prosecution; therefore, we request that you only submit this packet to Essex Police Department if you desire prosecution. **It is important to understand that in the event that a suspect is identified and arrested and the case proceeds to court, you as the victim, would mostly likely be required to appear and testify in court.**

**You will need to complete the Dispute Letters and provide us with necessary documentation before we can begin investigating your case for prosecution. Examples of the document evidence we need are on the last page of this packet. Without evidence, we cannot begin the investigation. Please write your report number on copies of evidence you send us. In identity theft cases, it is difficult to identify suspect(s) as they often use inaccurate information such as addresses and phone numbers. Frequently the investigator cannot find evidence to prove who actually used the victim's name and/or personal information over the phone or internet. \*\*It is important to note that even if the suspect cannot be identified for prosecution, it will not affect your ability to correct the fraudulent accounts and remove them from your credit.\*\* Furthermore, when you report your identity crime to the Essex Police Department, all of the relevant information from your case is entered into our database which will allow us to cross-reference your report with potential suspects who are involved in or arrested on other cases.**

**NOTE:**

- If you suspect someone is using your personal information for employment and there is no evidence of other identity fraud, please see the section for contacting the Social Security Administration under Additional Useful Information. Do not contact the employer directly as they may warn the suspect employee. It may not be necessary to complete this packet.
- If your name and/or information is used by someone else to avoid a traffic ticket or any criminal prosecution, please contact the agency investigating the original crime. It may not be necessary to complete this packet.

**Helpful Hints:**

- Remember that each creditor has different policies and procedures for correcting fraudulent accounts.
- Do not provide originals and be sure to keep copies of everything you provide to the creditors or companies involved in the identity theft.
- Write down all dates, times and the names of individuals you speak to regarding the identity theft and correction of your credit.

**Step 1: Contact your bank and other credit card issuers.**

If the theft involved **existing bank accounts** (checking or savings accounts as well as credit or debit card) you should do the following:

- Close the account that was used fraudulently or put stop payments on all outstanding checks that might have been written without your knowledge.
- Close all credit card accounts that were used fraudulently.
- Close any account accessible by debit card if it has been accessed fraudulently.
- Open up new accounts protected with a secret password or personal identification number (PIN).

If the identity theft involved the creation of **new bank accounts**, you should do the following:

- Call the involved financial institution and notify them of the identity theft.
- They will likely require additional notification in writing (see step 4.)

**Step 2: Contact all three (3) major credit reporting bureaus.**

First request the credit bureaus place a “Fraud Alert” on your file. A fraud alert will put a notice on your credit report that you have been the victim of identity theft. Merchants and financial institutions may opt to contact you directly before any new credit is taken out in your name. **Some states allow for a Security Freeze in which a PIN can be designated on your credit file and subsequently the PIN must then be given in order for credit to be extended. Ask the credit reporting bureaus if your state is participating in the Security Freeze Program.**

[www.scamsafe.com](http://www.scamsafe.com) – provides useful information related to identity theft and indicates which states participate in the Security Freeze program.

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) – provides one free credit report, per credit bureau agency, per year, with subsequent credit reports available at a nominal fee.

The following is a list of the three (3) major credit reporting bureaus for victims to report fraud:

Equifax  
Consumer Fraud Division  
800-525-6285  
PO Box 740256  
Atlanta, GA 30374

TransUnion  
Fraud Victim Assistance Dept  
800-680-7289  
PO Box 6790  
Fullerton, CA 92834

Experian  
National Consumer Assist  
888-397-3742  
PO Box 9530  
Allen, TX 75013

### Step 3: File a report with the Federal Trade Commission

You can go online to file an identity theft complaint with the FTC: [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) or by calling 877-IDTHEFT (877-438-4338).

### Step 4: Contact creditors involved in the Identity Theft by phone and in writing

This step involves contacting all companies or institutions that provided credit or opened new accounts for the suspect(s). Some examples include banks, mortgage companies, utility companies, telephone/cell phone companies, etc. Provide the creditors with the completed Identity Theft Affidavit (some may require that you use their own affidavit), Letter of Dispute and a copy of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA.)

**FTC Identity Theft Affidavit** – A copy of the FTC Identity Theft Affidavit can be found at the end of this packet. This is the same affidavit that the FTC makes available to victims of identity theft. The affidavit requests information regarding you as the victim, how the fraud occurred, law enforcement’s actions, documentation checklist and a Fraudulent Account Statement form. NOTE: Some creditors, financial institutions or collection agencies have their own affidavit that you may have to complete.

**Letters of Dispute** – Sample copies of the Letters of Dispute can also be found at the end of this packet. This letter needs to be completed for every creditor involved in the identity theft. The letter of dispute should contain information related to the fraudulent account(s), your dispute of the account(s) and your request for the information to be corrected. In addition, the letter should reference FACTA and make a request for copies of any and all records related to the fraudulent account(s) be provided to you and made available to the Essex Police Department.

**FACTA Law** – A portion of the FACTA Law can also be found at the end of this packet. As previously discussed in this packet, FACTA allows for you to obtain copies of any and all records related to the fraudulent account(s). You are then permitted to provide law enforcement with copies of the records you receive related to the fraudulent account(s); thereby allowing us to bypass the sometimes-difficult process of obtaining subpoenas for the very same information. It also allows you to request the information be made available to the Essex Police Department. We have found it useful to provide a copy of the FACTA Law with the submission of the Identity Theft Affidavit and Letter of Dispute to the individual creditors.

### Step 5: Submit the Identity Theft Affidavit AND copies of all information and records obtained from the creditors with regard to the fraudulent accounts to:

Essex Police Department  
145 Maple Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

To avoid confusion and to ensure that all items are forwarded to the assigned officer, we request that you submit everything at once and if possible, do not send items separately. Be sure to write your police report number on all items submitted. The types of evidence needed are listed on the next page. The information can be hand delivered or mailed. **Please remember that some victims are only interested in the correction of their credit and do not necessarily wish for prosecution. Therefore, we request that you only submit this packet to the Essex Police Department if you desire prosecution and would be willing and available to appear and testify in court should a suspect be identified and arrested.**

## Additional Useful Information

### Other entities you may want to report your identity theft to:

- ✓ **Post Office** – If you suspect that your mail has been stolen or diverted with a false change-of-address request, contact your local postal inspector. You can obtain the address and telephone number of the postal inspector for your area at United States Postal Service website: <http://www.usps.com/ncsc/locators/findis.html> or by calling **800-275-8777**.
- ✓ **Social Security Administration** – If you suspect that someone is using your social security number to obtain employment, contact the Social Security Administration's fraud hotline at 800-269-0271. Order a copy of your Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (PEBES) to check the accuracy of your work history on file with the Social Security Administration. You can obtain a PEBES application at your local Social Security office or at: <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-7004.pdf>.
- ✓ **If you are contracted by a collection agency** – about a debt for which you are not responsible, immediately notify them that you did not create the debt and that you are a victim of identity theft. Follow up with the collection agency and creditor in writing and include a copy of your police report, Identity Theft Affidavit, Letter of Dispute and a copy of the FACTA Law.

## Documentation for Prosecution

The victim should obtain the following evidence by using the sample dispute letters to dispute charges and requesting all documentation related to the account(s). Without this evidence, we will not be able to begin an investigation.

- If your existing account(s) are being accessed, please obtain the following types of documents:
  - Bank statements or bills showing where the transactions occurred
    - Please highlight or circle the fraudulent transactions
    - Please attempt to obtain a physical address for the transactions from your bank
  - Bills from companies showing merchandise ordered
    - Where items were delivered
    - What phone numbers were associated with the order
  - Any information from the creditor that shows how or where the account was used
  - The name and phone number of any representatives from the businesses you deal with

- **If new accounts have been opened in your name, please obtain the following:**
  - Copies of applications for credit
  - Bank statements that you may have received for accounts that are not yours
  - Credit reports showing the accounts that are not yours
    - Highlight or circle all accounts that are not yours
  - Bills from utility companies for accounts you did not open
  - Letters or documentation from creditors or utilities companies that contain:
    - How the account was opened (in person, over the phone, on internet)
    - Where the account was opened if done in person
    - Where the account is being used (locations of transactions)
    - Address where any cards, bills, merchandise or correspondence was mailed
    - Any phone numbers associated with the fraudulent account
  - The name or employee number and phone number of any representatives from the businesses you deal with
  
- **If someone is working using your personal information, we will need:**
  - Copies of Department of Economic Security or Social Security Administration report showing your information being used for employment in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - If only your Social Security Number is being used for employment, please provide a **stamped** social security number verification letter from the Social Security Administration that verifies the social security number in question is assigned to you.

**Please be sure the entire account number is listed on the evidence you submit. If only a partial account number is listed, please write the entire number on the copy you send us. Contact phone numbers for the organization(s) where the fraudulent account(s) or charges are, is also very helpful to us.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

13.  My identification documents (for example credit cards; birth certificates; driver's license; Social Security card; etc.) were:

stolen  lost on or about:

(day/month/year)

14.  To the best of my knowledge and belief, the following person(s) used my information (for example my name, address, date of birth, existing account numbers, Social Security number, mother's maiden name, etc.) or identification documents to obtain money, credit, loans, goods or services without my knowledge of authorization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s) (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number(s) (if known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional information

15.  I do NOT know who used my information of identification documents to obtain money, credit, loans, goods or services without my knowledge of authorization.

16.  I do know who used my information or identification to obtain money, credit, loans, goods or services without my knowledge or authorization.

17. Additional comments: (For example description of the fraud, which documents or information were used or how the identity thief gained access to your information.)

(Attach additional pages as necessary)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Victim's Law Enforcement Actions**

- 18. (check only one)
  - I am willing to assist in the prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.
  - I am NOT willing to assist in the prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.
  
- 19. (check only one)
  - I am authorizing the release of this information to law enforcement for the purposes of assisting them in the investigation and prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.
  - I am NOT authorizing the release of this information to law enforcement for the purposes of assisting them in the investigation and prosecution of the person(s) who committed this fraud.
  
- 20. (check all that apply) I  have  have not reported the events described in this affidavit to the police or other law enforcement agency. The police  did  did not write a report. *In the event you have contacted the police or other law enforcement agency, please complete the following information:*

Agency #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Officer/Agency personnel taking report \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_ Report number, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ email address, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Agency #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Officer/Agency personnel taking report \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_ Report number, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ email address, if any \_\_\_\_\_

**Documentation Checklist**

Please indicate the supporting documentation you are able to provide to the companies you plan to notify. Attach copies (NOT originals) to the affidavit before sending it to the companies.

- 21.  A copy of a valid government-issued photo-identification card (for example, your driver's license, state-issued ID card or passport.) If you are under 16 and don't have a photo-ID, you may submit a copy of your birth certificate or a copy of your official school records showing your enrollment and place of residence.
  
- 22.  Proof of residency during the time the disputed bill occurred, the loan was made or the other event took place (for example a rental/lease agreement in your name, a copy of a utility bill or a copy of an insurance bill).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

23.  A copy of the report filed with other police or sheriff's departments. If you are unable to obtain a report or report number from the police, please indicate that in Item 19. Some companies only need the report number, not a copy of the report. You may want to check with each company.

**Signature**

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information on and attached to this affidavit is true, correct and complete and made in good faith. I also understand that this affidavit or the information it contains may be made available to federal, state and/or local law enforcement agencies for such action within their jurisdiction as they deem appropriate. I understand that knowingly making any false or fraudulent statement or representation to the government may constitute a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 or other federal, state or local criminal statutes and may result in imposition of a fine or imprisonment or both.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

[Check with each company. Creditors sometimes require notarization. If they do not, please have one witness (non-relative) sign below that you completed and signed this affidavit.]

**Witness:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Fraudulent Account Statement

### Completing the Statement

- Make as many copies of this page as you need. Complete a separate page for each company you're notifying and only send it to that company. Include a copy of your signed affidavit.
- List only the account(s) you're disputing with the company receiving this form. See the example below.
- If a collection agency sent you a statement, letter or notice about the fraudulent account, attach a copy of that document (NOT the original.)

I declare (check all that applies):

As a result of the event(s) described in the Identity Theft Affidavit, the following account(s) was/were opened at your company in my name without my knowledge, permission or authorization using my personal information or identifying documents:

Creditor Name/Address (the company that opened the account or provided the goods or services)	Account Number	Type of unauthorized Credit/goods/services provided by creditor (If known)	Date Issued or Opened (If known)	Amount/Value provided (the amount charged or the cost of the goods/services)
Example Example National Bank 22 Main Street Columbus, OH 22722	01234567-89	Auto Loan	01/05/2007	\$25,500.00

During the time of the accounts described above, I had the following account open with your company:

Billing Name:

Billing Address:

Account Number:

# Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003

## PUBLIC LAW 108-159 DECEMBER 4, 2003

### SEC. 151 SUMMARY OF RIGHTS OF IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL-

(1) SUMMARY – Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘(d) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS OF IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS-

‘(1) IN GENERAL – The Commission, in consultation with the Federal banking agencies and the National Credit Union Administration, shall prepare a model summary of the rights of consumers under this title with respect to the procedures for remedying the effects of fraud or identity theft involving credit, an electronic fund transfer, or an account or transaction at or with a financial institution or other creditor.

‘(2) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION – Beginning 60 days after the date on which the model summary of rights is prescribed in final form by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (1), if any consumer contacts a consumer reporting agency and expresses a belief that the consumer is a victim of fraud or identity theft involving credit, an electronic fund transfer, or an account or transaction at or with a financial institution or other creditor, the consumer reporting agency shall, in addition to any other action that the agency may take, provide the consumer with a summary of rights that contains all of the information required by the Commission under paragraph (1), and information on how to contact the Commission to obtain more detailed information.

‘(e) INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS-

‘(1) IN GENERAL – For the purpose of documenting fraudulent transactions resulting from identity theft, not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a request from a victim in accordance with paragraph (3), and subject to verification of the identity of the victim and the claim of identity theft in accordance with paragraph (2), a business entity that has provided credit to, provided for consideration products, goods, or services to, accepted payment from, or otherwise entered into a commercial transaction for consideration with, a person who has allegedly made unauthorized use of the means of identification of the victim, shall provide a copy of application and business transaction records in the control of the business entity, whether maintained by the business entity or by another person on behalf of the business entity, evidencing any transaction alleged to be a result of identity theft to--

‘(A) the victim;

‘(B) any Federal, State, or local government law enforcement agency or officer specified by the victim in such a request; or

‘(C) any law enforcement agency investigating the identity theft and authorized by the victim to take receipt of records provided under this subsection.

‘(2) VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY AND CLAIM – Before a business entity provides any information under paragraph (1), unless the business entity, at its discretion, otherwise has a high degree of confidence it knows the identity of the victim making a request under paragraph (1), the victim shall provide to the business entity--

‘(A) as proof of positive identification of the victim, at the election of the business entity--

‘(i) the presentation of a government-issued identification card;

- ‘(ii) personally identifying information of the same type as was provided to the business entity by the unauthorized person; or
    - ‘(iii) personally identifying information that the business entity typically requests from new applicants or for new transactions, at the time of the victim’s request for information, including any documentation described in clauses (i) and (ii); and
  - ‘(B) as proof of a claim of identity theft, at the election of the business entity--
    - ‘(i) A copy of a police report evidencing the claim of the victim of identity theft; and
    - ‘(ii) a properly completed--
      - ‘(I) copy of a standardized affidavit of identity theft developed and made available by the Commission; or
      - ‘(II) an affidavit of fact that is acceptable to the business entity for that purpose.
- ‘(3) PROCEDURES – The request of a victim under paragraph (1) shall--
  - ‘(A) be in writing;
  - ‘(B) be mailed to an address specified by the business entity, if any; and
  - ‘(C) if asked by the business entity, include relevant information about any transaction alleged to be a result of identity theft to facilitate compliance with this section including--
    - ‘(i) if known by the victim (or if readily obtainable by the victim), the date of the application or transaction; and
    - ‘(ii) if known by the victim (or if readily obtainable by the victim), any other identifying information such as an account or transaction number.
- ‘(4) NO CHARGE TO VICTIM – Information required to be provided under paragraph (1) shall be so provided without charge.
- ‘(5) AUTHORITY TO DECLINE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION – A business entity may decline to provide information under paragraph (1) if, in the exercise of good faith, the business entity determines that—
  - ‘(A) this subsection does not require disclosure of the information;
  - ‘(B) after reviewing the information provided pursuant to paragraph (2), the business entity does not have a high degree of confidence in knowing the true identity of the individual requesting the information;
  - ‘(C) the request for the information is based on a misrepresentation of fact by the individual requesting the information relevant to the request for information; or
  - ‘(D) the information requested is Internet navigational data or similar information about a person’s visit to a website or online service.

## Sample Dispute Letter

Date

Your Name

Your Address

Name of Company

Attn: Complaint Department

Address

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to dispute the following information in my file. I have circled the items I dispute on the attached copy of the report I received.

This item (identify item(s) disputed by the name of source, such as creditors or tax court and identify type of item, such as credit account, judgement, etc.) is (inaccurate or incomplete) because (describe what is inaccurate or incomplete and why.) I am requesting that the item be removed (or request another specific change) to correct the information.

Enclosed are copies of (use this sentence if applicable and describe any enclosed documentation, such as a police report, Identity Theft Affidavit, payment records, court documents) supporting my position. Please reinvestigate this/these matter(s) and (delete or correct) the disputed item(s) as soon as possible.

In addition, pursuant to FACTA, as a victim of identity theft, I am requesting that you provide me with copies of any and all applications and business transaction records related to the fraudulent account(s). The copies of the records can be (mailed to me at the address listed above or faxed to the number listed below.) **In addition, please make these records available to law enforcement upon their request.**

Sincerely,

Your name

Enclosures: (List what you are enclosing)

## Sample Dispute Letter for Existing Accounts

Date

Your Name

Your Address

Your Account Number

Name of Creditor

Attn: Billing Inquiries

Address

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to dispute a fraudulent (charge or debit) on my account in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. I am a victim of identity theft and I did not make this (charge or debit). I am requesting that the (charge be removed or the debit reinstated), that any finance and other charges related to the fraudulent amount be credited as well, and that I receive an accurate statement.

Enclosed are copies of (use this sentence to describe any enclosed information, such as a police report or Identity Theft Affidavit) supporting my position. Please investigate this matter and correct the fraudulent (charge or debit) as soon as possible.

In addition, pursuant to FACTA, as a victim of identity theft, I am requesting that you provide me with copies of any and all applications and business transaction records related to the fraudulent account(s). The copies of the records can be (mailed to me at the address listed above or faxed to the number listed below.) **In addition, please make these records available to law enforcement upon their request.**

Sincerely,

Your Name

Enclosures: (List what you are enclosing)

