

Child Identity Theft Tips

courtesy of AICCCA member
Pioneer Credit Counseling



The school year is well on its way and so are the crooks who are trying to take advantage or steal your child's identity in between classes. Here are a couple of reminders to prevent your child from being wiped out before homecoming hits:

Lock it up - If you have your social security card or any other information that contains your Social Security number (student loan info, class schedule, bank statements) make sure that you have them in a secure place. Buy a lockable safe and keep it out of sight. Always keep your dorm room locked when you are away at class.

Computer use - If you are checking your online bank statements on a public computer, you may want to be careful with what information you give. Some public computers may store your login information making it easier for other people to have access to your account.

Keep tabs - Review your bank and credit card statements for unusual activity. If you notice something is wrong you will want to contact them right away.

Monitor the mail - Make sure that your mailbox securely locks. It may be a good idea to do your banking on-line or to even have your statements sent to your permanent address instead of the dormitory. With all the mail to keep track of, there is a chance that sensitive mail can end up in the wrong box.

Protect your ID - Make sure that your student ID number is different from your Social Security number. Many campuses are already beginning to use an alternative number. You may want to update your driver's license if it still contains your Social Security number.

Stay Alert - There are countless scams out there and many crooks target campuses to take advantage of students. If you are approached about making "easy money" be suspicious and notify an administrator who can either legitimize it or expose it.

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