

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



[www.sedgwickcounty.org/da](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/da)    <https://www.facebook.com/SedgwickCountyDistrictAttorney>

For Immediate Release, August 28, 2014

**WICHITA, KAN. – If you believe your identity/personal financial information has been stolen:**

- a) Immediately close accounts (credit cards, bank accounts, etc.) that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- b) File a report with local law enforcement.
- c) Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review them:

( A fraud alert can prevent an identity thief from opening additional accounts in your name. The two types are an “initial alert” which stays on your credit report for at least 90 days. This is appropriate for mailbox theft, or if your purse or wallet is stolen. An “extended alert” stays on your credit report for 7 years. During this time you are entitled to 2 free credit reports within 12 months from each of the 3 nationwide consumer reporting companies. To place either alert or have them removed, you must provide proof of identity such as your social security number, address or any other personal information at the consumer reporting company’s request. When a business sees the alert on your credit report, it must verify your identity before issuing credit, which may cause some delays. )

- d) Contact the agency that issued your driver’s license or other I.D. and follow its procedures to cancel the document and get a replacement. Ask the agency to flag your file so no one else can obtain a license or other identification by using your name.
- e) File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. By filing a complaint you provide information that can help law enforcement nationwide track down I.D. thieves. The email is [ftc.gov/idtheft](mailto:ftc.gov/idtheft). The phone number is 877-IDTHEFT.
- f) For a stolen Social Security number, call 800-772-1213.

**District Attorney Marc Bennett**  
***18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas***

---

CONTACT: DAN DILLON, MEDIA COORDINATOR  
316-660-3707    [DWDILLON@SEDGWICK.GOV](mailto:DWDILLON@SEDGWICK.GOV)

## **Signs that may indicate your identity has been stolen:**

- a) You are not receiving bills. Follow up with creditors to make sure an identity thief has not taken over an account and changed the billing address to cover his crime.
- b) You receive credit cards that you did not apply for.
- c) You are denied credit or receive less favorable credit terms like a high interest rate for no real reason.
- d) You receive calls or letters from debt collectors or businesses about merchandise or services you did not buy.

## **Stay alert:**

- a) Federal law requires each of the 3 nationwide consumer reporting companies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. Check the accuracy of the report and verify the debts and loans reflected are ones that you have incurred, and not someone else.