



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2008

March 2nd through March 8th is National Consumer Protection Week. This year's goal is to promote consumer education about the financial facts of life. Unfortunately, there are many frauds and scams which can threaten a person's financial well being. Identity Theft can harm one's credit score and require a lot of a victim's time and money to recover from the damage.

District Attorney Nola Tedesco Foulston reminds citizens to be vigilant in safeguarding their personal information against Identity Theft.

Take control of your identity.

- Shred all documents containing account numbers before putting in the trash.
- Request that you do not receive live checks in the mail on your credit accounts.
- Use only locked mailboxes to send and receive mail.
- Don't give personal information to an unsolicited caller.
- Never respond to suspicious emails, and closely monitor your credit reports.

You are entitled to receive up to three free credit reports each year, one from each of the three credit bureaus. Obtain a credit report once every four months to make sure it remains accurate. By monitoring your credit report, you are able to identify any suspicious new accounts which are opened, or extra charges which are unauthorized. If you notice such activity, place a fraud alert on your credit reports and file a police report.

You can access your free report at annualcreditreport.com. Also visit our website at sedgwickcounty.org/da for more valuable consumer information on identity theft.

For more information, contact Sharon Werner, Chief Attorney, Consumer Fraud and Economic Crime Division, at 660-3700.

Nola Tedesco Foulston
District Attorney