

Help the Police

Physical evidence is needed to prosecute a criminal for Identity Theft. Video or photographic evidence is one of the best sources available, but obtaining the evidence can be problematic because time is critical.

Businesses retain video evidence for a specific period which can range from one week to one year. The average retention period is 30-90 days. Time is critical, but often a victim will not realize a crime occurred until they receive their credit card or bank statement. By the time the report is taken and the report reviewed by a detective, the retention period may have expired and video will be gone forever. Therefore, we need the help of our victims to obtain photographic evidence. It is a good idea to record all information you obtain and get the name of the person you spoke with.

Credit Cards:

- Contact the credit card company and find out where the credit card was used. You should find out the name and address of the business, the date and time the card was used and the amount of the transaction. Often you will be given a transaction or reference number.
- Contact the business where the transaction took place. Find out if they take video or photographs. If they have video or photographic evidence still available, ask them to make a copy of the transactions for the police. We will also need a copy of the transaction itself (receipt).
- The stores will not give you the evidence, but we will send someone to pick it up; Our financial crime advocates will help arrange the pickup of evidence. Please contact 621-6335 and leave a message.

Checks:

- Contact your bank or credit union and find out where the check was used. If the check is made out to a business, the stamp on the back should identify the store number which will help identify what the location is. You should find out the date and the amount of the transaction.
- Contact the business where the transaction took place. They can often find the transaction based on the date and the amount of the transaction.
- Find out if they take video or photographs. If they have video or photographic evidence still available, ask them to make a copy of the transactions for the police. We will also need a copy of the transaction itself (receipt).
- The stores will not give you the evidence, but we will send someone to pick it up; Our financial crime advocates will help arrange the pickup of evidence. Please contact 621-6335 and leave a message.

Personal Privacy laws make it difficult for the police to acquire information about your account and illegal activity. Although companies will provide the information with a search warrant, this is time consuming. Due to the prolific nature of this crime, law enforcement does not have the manpower to write search warrants on every case. This process may not be done unless there is a significant loss. However, Penal Code 836.8 allows the creditors to give the police all pertinent information if you mail them this form and a copy of your police report. A creditor may be a bank, a credit card company or a utility such as PG&E or the telephone company. **See the bottom of the previous page for a copy of the form. Be sure to fill out the items in {brackets}.**

How do I get a copy of my police report?

Reports can only be provided by our Records section. Be sure to bring a photo ID to prove you are the victim. These reports are free. There are three locations:

1. FPD Headquarters. 2323 Mariposa, Fresno (8-5 Monday through Friday.)
2. Northeast District Station 1450 E. Teague Avenue (10-2 Monday through Friday.)
3. Southwest District Station 1211 Fresno Street, Fresno (8-5 Monday through Friday.)

An affidavit of fraudulent activity may also be required to be sent to certain creditors. **See the bottom of the previous page for an affidavit.**