

# DOES A SCAMMER HAVE YOUR INFORMATION?

If you shared your information with a scammer, there are some steps you can take to minimize the damage!

## STEP #1: FRAUD ALERT

**Place a Fraud Alert:** It's FREE, stays in place for one year and requires a business to take steps to verify that it is in fact you that is applying for the good or service. Call one of the credit bureaus and they'll notify the other two.

## STEP #2: SECURITY FREEZE

**Consider a Security Freeze:** It's FREE and will prevent a business from accessing your credit report for new products or services, unless you temporarily lift the freeze. You must call each of the credit bureaus to do this.

**Equifax:** (800) 685-1111  
**TransUnion:** (800) 680-7289  
**Experian:** (888) 397-3742

You can use these numbers for both the fraud alert and the security freeze.

## STEP #3: MONITOR

**Monitor Financial and Personal Statements:** Be sure that your bills and statements are arriving on time and are correct. ID Thieves don't just use your information to get money. Your SSN can be used to receive:

- Government benefits
- Driver's License / ID
- Tax Refund
- Medical Benefits

Monitor ALL of your statements, and always be on alert for any suspicious or unexpected letters or phone calls!

# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

## FOR ADDITIONAL HELP:

Contact the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs' ID Theft Unit for more tips on dealing with identity theft and scams.

(844) 835-5322 (toll free in SC)

(803) 734-4200 or [consumer.sc.gov](http://consumer.sc.gov)

## REPORT SCAMS TO:

**SCDCA:** (844) 835-5322 (toll free in SC), (803) 734-4200 or [consumer.sc.gov](http://consumer.sc.gov)

**FTC:** (877) 382-4357 or [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)

**FCC:** (888) 225-5322 or [consumercomplaints.fcc.gov](http://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov)

## DO NOT CALL REGISTRY:

Add your number to the **Do Not Call Registry:**

[Donotcall.gov](http://Donotcall.gov) or (888) 382-1222

## STOP UNSOLICITED OFFERS:

**Opt out of snail mail marketing:**

[Dmchoice.org](http://Dmchoice.org)

**Opt out of preapproved credit offers:**

[www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com) or call (888) 567-8688

## FREE CREDIT REPORTS:

**Get a copy of your FREE credit report:**

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call (877) 322-8228