



NUMBER

GENERAL ORDER

42-9

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CHAPTER 42			
TITLE: IDENTITY CRIMES			
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Identity theft is one of the fastest growing and most serious economic crimes in the United States for both financial institutions and persons whose identifying information has been illegally used. Therefore, this Department shall take those measures necessary to record criminal complaints, assist victims in contacting other relevant investigative and consumer protection agencies, and work with other federal, state and local law enforcement and reporting agencies to identify perpetrators.

DEFINITIONS

Identity Theft

A person commits identity theft when such person intentionally obtains personal identifying information of another person without the authorization of such other person and uses that information to obtain or attempt to obtain, money, credit, goods, services, property or medical information in the name of such other person without the consent of such other person. (CGS § 53a-129a(a))

Personal Identifying Information

Any name, number or other information that may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific individual including, but not limited to, such individual's name, date of birth, mother's maiden name, motor vehicle operator's license number, Social Security number, employee identification number, employer or taxpayer identification number, alien registration number, government passport number, health insurance identification number, demand deposit account number, savings account number, credit card number, debit card number or unique biometric data such as fingerprint, voice print, retina or iris image, or other unique physical representation. (CGS § 53a-129a(b))

Dispatcher Responsibilities

Individuals opting not to file a police report are encouraged to visit the Department's website. There, they can access an Identity Theft publication from the Federal Trade Commission, offering guidance for victims of Identity Theft. Copies of this publication are also available in the Department lobby.

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In cases where complainants are uncertain about having an identity theft complaint or prefer to consult with an officer, an assigned officer will promptly investigate.

Officer Duties

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 54-1n, any individual who believes they have fallen victim to identity theft may file a complaint with the police department having jurisdiction in their residential town. The police department is mandated to accept, document, and provide the complainant with a copy of the report. The department will investigate the alleged violation, as well as any other offenses resulting from it. If necessary, coordination with other law enforcement agencies will be undertaken.

Upon confirming an identity theft crime, the officer will initiate a preliminary investigation. Simultaneously, the victim will be directed to the Department's website to download the Identity Theft publication from the Federal Trade Commission, also available in the Department lobby.

For cases involving compromised personal information online, victims can file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

If the initial investigation reveals a suspect or an opportunity to recover victim losses, the Investigations Unit may review the case for follow-up investigation.

Community Awareness and Prevention

Officers engaged in public education and crime prevention should actively disseminate information on identity theft prevention efforts.