



Royal Bahamas Police Force

Working together for a safe Bahamas

Identity Theft Prevention Safety Tips

In the course of the day, we do many activities that put our personal information at risk – from writing a check at the store to charging merchandise in person or over the phone. You might not think twice about these transactions, but others might.

Identity theft - when a perpetrator assumes someone's identity for personal or financial gain, like stealing a credit card to make financial transactions in the victim's name - is the fastest-growing crime in the Bahamas and abroad.

Therefore to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, pay attention to the following safety tips.

- Do not give out your personal information unless you initiate the contact or you know the person or company with whom you are dealing. Also, never disclose personal information, such as your bank account information, in response to an email. Please note that a legitimate business will not ask you to do this.
- Do not disclose your credit card number to an online vendor unless it is encrypted and the sign is secure. Look at the first part of the Web address on your browser. It should read <https://>.
- Remove all documents with personal information from your hard drive before discarding your computer or sending it in for repair.
- Shred discarded documents, including pre-approved credit card applications, bank statements, store receipts, and utility bills. "Dumpster divers" can gain access to your personal information if such items as this are thrown in the trash.
- Cancel all credit cards that have not been used in the last six months.

Should you be a victim of crime, please do not resist but take note of the description of the culprit e.g. his appearance, clothing, height, physical details and the direction or mode of escape. Call the Police as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you come across any suspicious person(s) loitering around your business or have any information pertaining to any crime, please do not hesitate to contact call the police emergency at '919' or Crime Stoppers at 328-tips (New Providence), 1-300-8476 (Family Islands)

Police Emergency
911

National Crime Prevention Office
302-8430 / 1
www.royalbahamaspolice.org

Crime Stoppers
328-TIPS (8477)
Family Islands
(242) 300-8476

"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."