

# IDENTITY THEFT

## PREVENTION TIPS

- Protect your personal information and release it only when necessary. Do not give out your personal information on the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you initiated the contact or are certain you know with whom you are communicating.
- Memorize your Social Security number and all of your passwords. Do not keep them in your wallet or purse.
- Tear up or shred papers with personal information before throwing them away.
- To limit the sharing of your financial information, ask your bank, credit card, insurance, and securities companies not to share your personal financial information with outside companies.
- Check your credit card bills carefully and contact your card issuer immediately if there is any unauthorized activity on your account. Contact them if bills and other financial statements do not arrive on time.
- Order a copy of your credit report at least once a year to check for fraudulent activity.
- When selecting passwords, avoid using easily available information such as your mother's maiden name, your date of birth, the last four digits of your Social Security number, your phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers.

The brochure Protect Your Identity and Stop Unemployment Insurance Imposter Fraud (DE 2360EE) provides resources for individuals who may be victims of identity theft or UI imposter fraud.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

LABOR AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made by calling 1-800-300-5616 (voice), or TTY 1-800-815-9387.

# Protect Your Identity

AND  
**STOP**

Unemployment Insurance  
**Imposter  
FRAUD**



## THE EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (EDD)

is committed to maintaining the integrity of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program. Here are ways you can protect yourself against identity theft and UI imposter fraud.

### WHAT IS

#### IDENTITY THEFT?

Identity theft occurs when someone uses another person's personal information to take on his or her identity. Identity theft can include wage and employment information, as well as credit card and mail fraud.

### WHAT SHOULD

#### I DO IF I AM A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT?

If you are a victim of identity theft, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) online at [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov) or call **1-877-ID-THEFT**. In addition, the FTC recommends taking the following action:

- File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime.
- Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports periodically to ensure no new fraudulent activity has occurred. See the Additional Resources section to obtain a free annual credit report.
- Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

### WHAT IS

#### AN IMPOSTER CLAIM?

In the case of an imposter claim, someone has intentionally filed a UI claim using another person's personal information, such as name, Social Security number (SSN), and employment information.

### WHAT SHOULD

#### I DO IF I SUSPECT AN IMPOSTER CLAIM?

If you suspect a potential imposter claim, immediately report it online via a secure connection at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov) or call the EDD toll-free Fraud Hotline at **1-800-229-6297**.

### WHAT IS

#### THE EDD DOING TO PREVENT UI IMPOSTER FRAUD?

**IF** the EDD receives information that an identity theft has occurred, the EDD will place an indicator on those identities. When anyone using one of those identities attempts to file for UI benefits, the EDD will send a Request for Identity Verification (DE 1326C) to the individual filing the claim for additional identifying information. If the true owner of the identity is not the individual who filed the claim and you are the true owner, the EDD will send you a Request for Information (DE 1326E). Please assist us and provide the requested information in response to any inquiries from the EDD.

**IF** you are a victim of UI imposter fraud, become unemployed, and file a claim for UI benefits, the EDD will also ask for additional identifying information to ensure the validity of your claim. This will help protect the identities of legitimate claim holders.

### ADDITIONAL

#### RESOURCES

For information on ordering a free credit report, visit the FTC website at [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov).

**The following websites offer a variety of resources on identity theft:**

California Office of Privacy Protection:  
[www.privacy.ca.gov](http://www.privacy.ca.gov)

California Office of the Attorney General:  
[www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov)

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation:  
[www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov)

Federal Trade Commission:  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

Social Security Administration:  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

U.S. Department of Justice:  
[www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov)

U.S. Department of the Treasury:  
[www.treas.gov](http://www.treas.gov)

U.S. Postal Inspection Service:  
<http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>

For more information on UI Fraud, visit the EDD website at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).