

# IDENTITY THEFT



**It Could Happen to You!**

Hopefully, it will never happen to you, but it happens to approximately 16 million Americans every year.<sup>(1)</sup> Their identity is stolen.

Do you know what to do should it ever happen to you? The Federal Trade Commission has developed a "one-stop resource to help you report and recover from identity theft." **IdentityTheft.gov**

**provides** an interactive, step-by-step checklist to walk you through the steps to take right away so that you can limit the damage the thief might do. What's especially terrific about the site is that it provides all the links, forms, and phone numbers you need to complete each of the tasks.

The website then provides you with the steps you should take next to repair the damage that's been done. **IdentityTheft.gov** also provides a list of other steps you may need/want to take such as resolving child identity theft or medical identity theft and contacting additional offices such as your investment accounts or utility providers.

In addition to the federal site, Florida residents have the **Florida Identity Theft Victim Kit** to assist them in recovering from identity theft. The Florida Attorney General's office also provides a checklist with tips for preventing identity theft. Remember that old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"? In this case, an ounce of prevention could be worth thousands of your dollars.

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=42>