

Identity Theft

362.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Identity theft is a growing trend that frequently involves related crimes in multiple jurisdictions. This policy is intended to provide guidelines for the reporting and investigation of such crimes.

362.2 REPORTING

Upon request from a victim, officers presented with the crime of identity theft shall complete a report for crimes occurring in this jurisdiction or for victims who reside or are located within this jurisdiction irrespective of where the crime occurred, pursuant to ARS § 13-2008.

For any crime not occurring in this jurisdiction with a victim who does not reside within this jurisdiction, the officer may complete a courtesy report to be forwarded to the agency where the crime was committed or, if the location is unknown, to the victim's residence agency.

While the crime of identity theft should be reported to the law enforcement agency where the victim resides, officers of this department should investigate and report crimes occurring within this jurisdiction that have resulted from the original identity theft (e.g., the identity theft occurred elsewhere but the credit card fraud occurred and is reported in this jurisdiction).

Officers should include all known incidents of fraudulent activity (e.g., credit card number applied for in victim's name when the victim has never made such an application).

Officers should also cross-reference all known reports made by the victim (e.g., U.S. Secret Service, credit reporting bureaus, U.S. Postal Service and the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services Division) with all known report numbers.

Following supervisory review and Department processing, the initial report should be forwarded to the appropriate investigator for follow-up investigation, coordination with other agencies and prosecution as circumstances dictate.

362.3 PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The victim should be advised to place a security freeze on his/her consumer report, as allowed by law. A victim may also access http://www.azag.gov/cybercrime/ID_Theft.html for additional detailed information.

362.4 INFORMATION

The victim should be encouraged to contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is responsible for receiving and processing complaints under the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act. The victim can contact the FTC online at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/data/idt.shtm> or by telephone at 877-ID Theft (877-438-4338). Additional information may be found at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) website, <http://www.usdoj.gov>.