SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

IDENTITY THEFT VICTIM

Syndicate Legal Advisory Services – *Identity Theft Victim*

SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Team of:
Attorneys / Lawyers
Law Clerks
Paralegals
Industry Specialists

Identity Theft is defined as the illegal use of someone else's personal information (such as a Social Security number) in order to obtain money or credit. Unfortunately, as computer hackers proliferate and the incidence of data breaches goes up, the number of identity theft victims has increased.

Identity Theft means that someone has used your personal information for their own financial gain without your consent. For example, a credit card tied to your own credit history used for the fraudster's purchases, a student loan listing you as a co-signer or primary student without your knowledge, or intercepting your tax refund to name a few common issues.

Often, you don't become aware that you've been victimized until you begin receiving calls from debt collection agencies or get an overdraft notice on your bank account. By then, your credit scores are affected, and you may get denied for loans as a result. This is why credit agencies recommend credit monitoring to see if anything changes without your knowledge. Keeping a close eye on financial accounts and investigating questionable charges or withdrawals immediately is also important.

We take price in helping our client's who have been victimized by Identity Theft. We are able to assist victims of the following forms of Identity Theft:

- Domestic Identity Theft
- Digital Signature Fraud
- Senior Identity Theft
- Unauthorized ATM Charges
- Unauthorized Bank Transfers
- Unauthorized Credit Card Transactions

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There are many types of Identity Theft with identity thieves constantly coming up with ways to get access to your sensitive information. For example:

- **Data Breaches:** A data breach can either be intentional or accidental. An intentional data breach usually occurs when a criminal finds a way to access a company's computer system in order to steal private information. On the other hand, accidental data breaches can occur if company laptops or cell phones are stolen from an employee. Regardless of the cause, data breaches tend to result in thousands or millions of potential victims.

- **Formjacking:** This type of cybercrime occurs when hackers insert malicious code to collect data from website forms.

- **Mail Theft:** Even in our digital times, old-fashioned snail mail still provides a treasure trove of information for identity thieves.

- **Phishing:** The scammer tricks you into handing over personal information. These days this often happens through emails designed to look like they are coming from a business you are familiar with, or a text message, or telephone call.

- **Synthetic Identity Theft:** The identity thief uses a real social security number but a fake name and date of birth.

- **Unsafe Internet Connections:** Have you ever connected to public Wi-Fi? Regardless of whether you are given a password (the thief is likely there with you and has the same password) or not, public wi-fi connections offer a gateway into your computer for potential thieves.

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What we can do to help:

- First, we immediately work with our Client to gather as much information as possible, and work on drafting a Declaration to be used as part of a Police Report. The more information made available to the police in an organized fashion truly helps the police start their investigation.

- Second, we work with our Client to notify credit bureaus and banks, and we assist the Client to close any accounts or credit cards that the Client suspects may have been compromised.

- Third, we provide copies of the police report to the credit bureaus and to the Client's bank. When doing so, we request that any fraudulent accounts be removed and/or that any fraudulent purchases be reversed. As part of this process, we request "extended fraud alerts" (up to seven years) and, if the situation is truly aggravated, we may suggest that the Client place a security freeze on their credit reports. This takes the Client's credit reports offline until and unless the Client activates them for a credit transaction.

- Lastly, and only if required, if a Client is unable to have a fraudulent account removed from their credit report, or is unable to have a bank or credit card company recredit any account, we work with the Client to secure any and all legal remedies available to them.

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