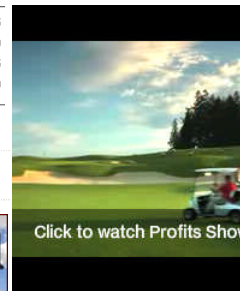




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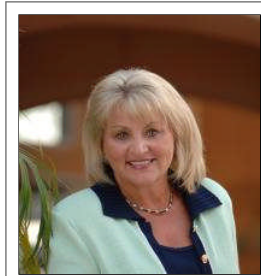
AUDIO: Faceless crime hits millions every year

LAGUNA NIGUEL
December 6, 2007 12:01am



- Identity theft expert says increased vigilance is needed
- 'If someone wants to steal your identity, they can'

Do your medical files in your doctor's office still have your Social Security number on them? If so, you could be vulnerable to identity theft, warns Mari Frank, a Laguna Niguel attorney who specializes in help victims of ID theft.



Mari Frank

One reason for the explosion in identity theft crime is its virtually penalty-free nature for the criminal, she says.

"Only 10 percent of law enforcement agencies will investigate and of those 10 percent, only about 10 percent are ever prosecuted," Ms. Frank says.

She says there are between 9 million and 15 million new victims every year, the estimates coming from different studies.

"The truth of the matter is that if someone wants to steal your identity, they can do so," Ms. Frank says.

She says it doesn't have to be high-tech theft, either. It can be as easy as looking at confidential data, such as a personnel file in an office. "All someone needs is your Social Security number. With that, they can commit credit card fraud or any kinds of financial fraud. Or they can steal your identity to commit crimes or get governmental benefits," she says.

(Mari Frank talks about the problem, solutions and how she went from victim to victor in a fight against ID theft in today's CVBT Audio Interview. She also says what you should do about those medical records. Please click on the link below to listen or to download the MP3 file to your iPod or PC.)

Over the past 14 years, Ms. Frank has helped write legislation to crack down on ID theft, testified in Congress and the California Legislature, and has written several books to help victims of the "faceless" crime.

The latest is "Safeguard Your Identity: Protect Yourself with a Personal Privacy Audit."

Drilldown

- » For more information : www.identitytheft.org
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