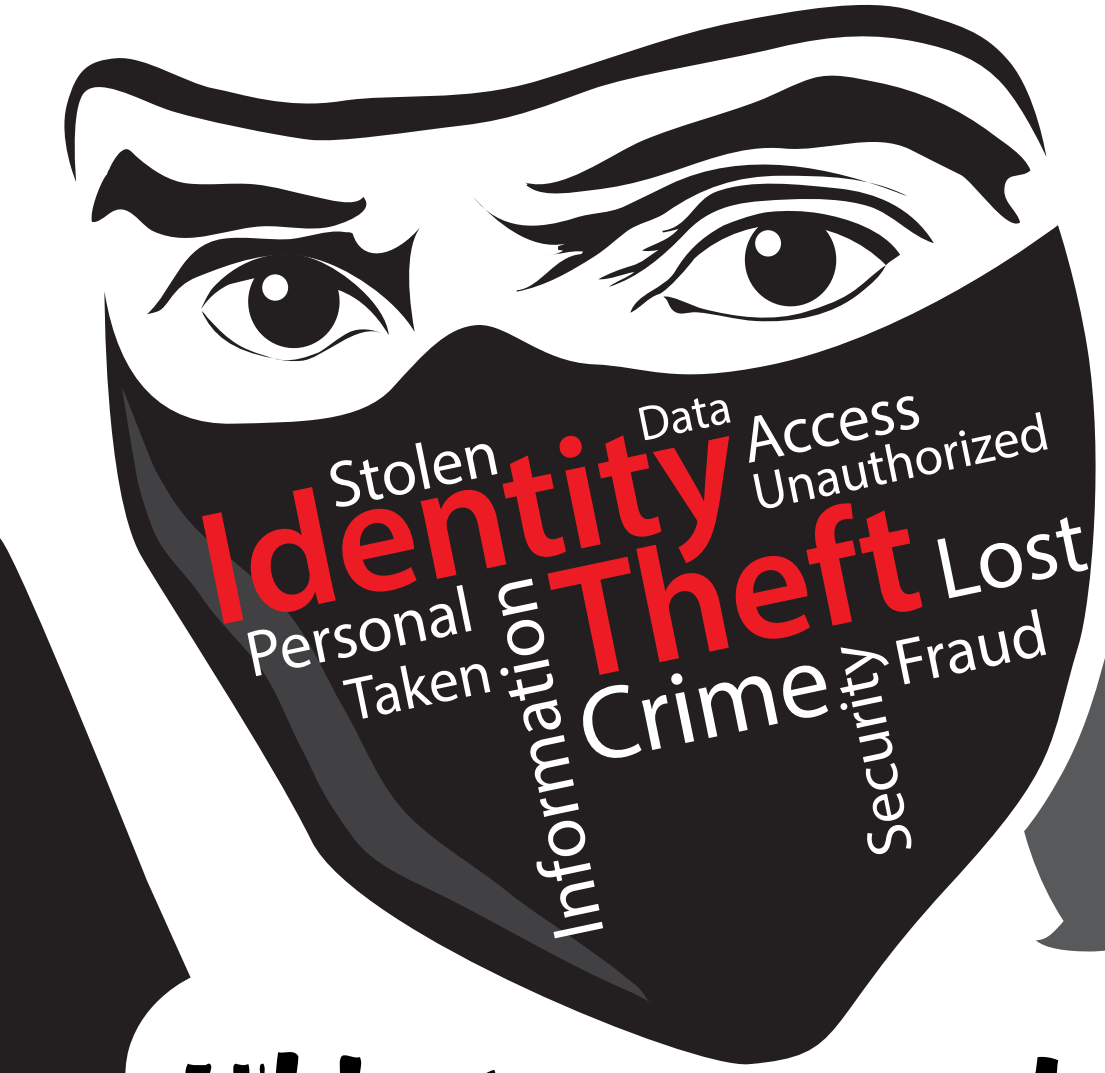

5 Things you need to Know

1. Identity theft happens when someone uses your Social Security number or other personal information to commit fraud.

2. Identity theft can happen to anyone.

3. Once identity thieves have your personal information, they can drain your bank account, run up charges on your credit cards, open new utility accounts, or get medical treatment on your health insurance. An identity thief can file a tax refund in your name and get your refund. In some extreme cases, a thief might even give your name to the police during an arrest.

4. If your wallet, Social Security number, or other personal information is lost or stolen, there are steps you can take to help protect yourself.

5. If you feel you are the victim of identity theft go to https://www.identitytheft.gov/#what-to-do-right-away and act right away.