



## Identity Theft:

### A Summary of Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Abusers may steal a victim's identity as a tactic of financial abuse. Abusers may do this to make the survivor more financially dependent on them or to cause harm and distress to a survivor who has left the relationship.

#### There are two types of identity theft:

- "Account takeover" occurs when someone acquires your *existing* credit account information and purchases products and services using the actual credit card or the account number and expiration date.
- "Application fraud" occurs when someone uses your Social Security number and other identifying information to open *new* accounts in your name.

#### How can my identity be stolen?

Identity thieves can steal your name, personal information, date of birth, SSN, driver's license, passport, credit card information, ATM number, telephone calling card or other account information.

Identity thieves can be abusive partners, someone you know, or a complete stranger.

#### What should I do if my identity has been stolen?

- Notify a credit bureau.
- Contact your creditors.
- Call the Social Security Administration.
- Obtain a new driver's license number.
- Document all conversations regarding the identity theft.
- Consider reporting the crime to the police.

#### How can I prevent identity theft?

- Change passwords and pins for accounts.
  - o If you are considering leaving an abusive person or have left, change your passwords and pins and contact your creditors and other companies, such as your cell phone provider, to request additional security be added onto your account, like a code or PIN that must be provided to make any changes to the account.
- Limit the individuals and businesses you share your personal information with.
- Read privacy notices.
- Shred everything that contains contact information or account numbers.
- Practice computer safety by using browser security features.

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Adapted in part from the Moving Ahead Through Financial Management Curriculum. For more information, please see <http://nnedv.org/resources/ejresources/ejcurriculum.html>