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FRAUD ALERT

October 2016

KEN BURKE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND COMPTROLLER

VOICE

You Have A VOICE Report Cybercrime

FRAUD ALERT

SIGN UP TODAY and receive free alerts when a document with your name is recorded in Official Records. Protect yourself from fraud. **CLICK HERE.**

GET IN TOUCH:

Write:
Public Integrity Unit
Division of Inspector General
Fraud Hotline
510 Bay Avenue,
Clearwater, FL 33756

Call:
(727) 45FRAUD
(727) 453-7283
Fax:
(727) 464-8386
E-mail:
fraudhotline@mypinellasclerk.org
Internet:
www.mypinellasclerk.org
www.twitter.com/pinellasig
www.facebook.com/igpinellas

PROTECTING YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Doug Walker, Social Security Administration, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Communications, warns us that every year millions of Americans become victims of identity theft. Identity theft occurs when someone steals your personally identifiable information and pretends to be you. They can use this information to open bank or credit card accounts, file taxes, or make new purchases in your name.

It is important that you take steps to protect your Social Security Number from theft. If someone obtains your Social Security Number, they can use it to get other personal information about you, including your bank or credit information.

Someone Can Steal Your Social Security Number By:

- Stealing your wallet, purse, or mail.
- Obtaining personal information you provide to an unsecured site on the internet.
- Rummaging through your trash.
- Posing, by phone or email, as someone who needs information about you.

If Someone Asks For Your Number:

- You should ask why?
- How will it be used?
- What will happen if you refuse?

Make sure you give your employer and financial institution(s) your correct Social Security Number, so that your records and tax information remain accurate.

Minimize The Risk

To minimize the risk of identity theft, keep your Social Security card and any other documents that show your Social Security Number in a safe place. Do not carry your Social Security card or other documents with you that display your number unless you need them.

Someone's Using Your Social Security Number

If you suspect someone's using your Social Security Number for work purposes, report the problem to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) immediately. SSA will review your earnings with you to ensure its records are

accurate. You may also verify your earnings on your Social Security statement. You can get your statement online by opening a personal *my Social Security* account.

Credit or Other Problems

If someone misused your Social Security Number to create credit or other problems for you, visit *www.idtheft.gov* immediately to report the identity theft. FTC provides detailed information to help you defend against identity theft. You can reach FTC by calling 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

You may also want to contact the Internal Revenue Service, and file an online complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at *www.ic3.gov*.

Safeguarding your identity and Social Security Number is of the utmost importance. If you think you're a victim of identity theft, please act now. For more information, read the Social Security Commission's publication *Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number* or visit the *SSA website*.

For more information or to file to a complaint, contact Pinellas County Consumer Protection at (727) 464-6200 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/consumer.