

# Your Identity is Personal. Keep it that way.

Prevention is the best way  
to avoid Identity Theft.

## AMERANT



### Protect Your Computer and Online Activity

- Install anti-virus software on your computer and obtain updates on a regular basis.
- Release personal information on email correspondence only if you have initiated contact with a company, organization or individual and determine the recipient to be trustworthy.
- Never provide personal information when replying to unsolicited emails.
- Be cautious when using Wi-Fi or public computers.

#### ▶ Protect Your Computer Passwords

- Periodically change your online password, including those you use with online merchants.
- Avoid using obvious passwords, like your date of birth or children's names.
- Create passwords with a mix of upper and lower case characters, as well as numbers and symbols.



### Protect Your Bank Accounts

- Never share your account numbers, Personal Identification Number (PIN) or passwords.
- Be cautious of telephone calls requesting bank information where you have not initiated contact.
- Mail checks in a locked mailbox.
- Enroll for online statements to avoid lost or stolen statements in the mail.
- Review your account statement carefully every month and report any suspicious activity immediately.



## Protect Your Personal Information

- Store legal documents, contracts and passports in a safe deposit box or personal vault.
- Never provide your social security number over the phone unless you have initiated contact with a company, organization or individual you consider trustworthy.
- Shred documents containing personal information.

### ▶ Review Your Credit Report

To monitor activity on your U.S. accounts, obtain a free credit report once a year by visiting [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

### If you suspect that your identity has been compromised, take action right away.

- 1 Review all bank and credit card activity and immediately call these institutions to report suspected fraud
- 2 Immediately contact the three credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on all your accounts. These bureaus provide free reports once a year and free reports to victims of identity theft
- 3 File a report with your local police department
- 4 If you suspect Social Security number theft, contact the Social Security Administration  
**1-800-269-0271 or [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)**
- 5 File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)  
**1-877-ID THEFT (438-4338) or [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)**

Equifax	1-800-525-6285	<a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a>
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Experian	1-888-397-3742	<a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a>
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TransUnion	1-800-680-7289	<a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a>
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