

IDAHO COALITION AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Tools for Assisting Victims: Consumer
Sentinel Network and the National
Crime Information Center



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Consumer Sentinel Network

- ❑ www.ftc.gov/sentinel
- ❑ Purpose: Share information amongst law enforcement
- ❑ Law enforcement members can access complaints provided to the FTC
- ❑ Access is free and available to any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency.

How to Become a Member

- ▣ To access the Sentinel Network, the law enforcement agency must become a member.
- ▣ Members can:
 - Search millions of consumer complaints
 - Report complaints so they can be shared with law enforcement nationwide
 - See trends in types of complaints filed, identify crime trends
- ▣ Register.ConsumerSentinel.gov
- ▣ Idaho lacking participation by local law enforcement agencies

How it Helps Victims

- ▣ By enhancing investigations of identity theft crimes
- ▣ Law enforcement can:
 - Get alerts about particular subjects or practices
 - Find other law enforcement agencies investigating the same targets
 - Set up a search to run periodically
 - Research cases
 - Track targets
 - Identify victims
- ▣ Law enforcement partners can use information in the database to coordinate investigations.
- ▣ **Greater likelihood of finding victims, prosecuting cases, and obtaining restitution for victims**

Consumer Sentinel Network

"The Consumer Sentinel Network is a treasure trove of information for law enforcers. We plan to contribute consumer complaints we receive at the CFPB to the Network and urge other state and local law enforcers to join the Network, too." – *Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcW0vngJZEM>

National Crime Information Center

- An electronic clearinghouse of crime data
- Consists of 19 "files"
- Agencies enter records into NCIC that are accessible nationwide.
 - *e.g.*, entering a vehicle into the file to see if it is a stolen vehicle
- <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ncic>

How NCIC Can Help Victims

- ❑ Can be extremely useful for victims of criminal identity theft
- ❑ NCIC Identity Theft File “flags” stolen identities
- ❑ Provides identifying information to recognize imposters when they are encountered by law enforcement.
- ❑ Contains records of both the ID theft victim and any information known about the perpetrator

How Does it Work?

- ❑ An NCIC Identity Theft File record is created
- ❑ It is available nationwide to police officers
- ❑ During a subsequent encounter with law enforcement, a query into the NCIC system automatically searches the Identity Theft File
- ❑ The officer will receive a response including the victim profile and password.
- ❑ **Can prevent arrests of criminal ID theft victims!**
- ❑ Currently, the Identity Theft File consists of approximately 2,600 records entered by 29 states.

Questions/Discussion

