

Steps to Take to Protect Yourself From Data Breach

Check your credit reports from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion - for free - by visiting annualcreditreport.com. Accounts or activity that you don't recognize could indicate identity theft. Visit IdentityTheft.gov to find out what to do.

Consider placing a credit freeze on your files. A credit freeze makes it harder for someone to open a new account in your name. Keep in mind that a credit freeze won't prevent a thief from making charges to your existing accounts. The following credit reporting agencies can be contacted to place a credit freeze (fee may apply):

- [Equifax](http://Equifax.com) - 1-800-349-9960
- [Experian](http://Experian.com) - 1-888-397-3742
- [TransUnion](http://TransUnion.com) - 1-888-909-8872

Monitor your existing credit card and bank accounts closely for charges you don't recognize.

If you decide against a credit freeze, **consider placing a fraud alert on your files.** A fraud alert warns creditors that you may be an identity theft victim and that they should verify that anyone seeking credit in your name really is you.

File your taxes early - as soon as you have the tax information you need, before a scammer can. Tax identity theft happens when someone uses your Social Security Number to get a tax refund or a job. Respond right away to letters from the IRS.