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Identity Theft Fraud Investigation and Lawsuits

Almost 20 per cent of US consumers have fallen victim to identity theft, and younger adults are at greatest risk, according to an Experian-Gallup Personal Credit Index published August 4, 2005. Roughly 25% of American consumers under 30 have had their financial information stolen, the study found.

Identity theft is rampant and the problem is growing worse -- in recent months there have been numerous reports about breaches, break-ins and improper disclosures at large corporations, resulting in release of secret personal identity data and financial information. Suddenly things seem out of control: instead of losing our identities one by one, we're seeing criminals grabbing them in massive chunks -- literally millions at a time.

What Is Identity Theft?

Identity theft occurs when someone takes your personal information such as your name, Social Security number, credit card number or other identifying information, without your permission to commit fraud, theft or other crimes.

Identity theft is a very serious crime. People whose identities have been stolen can end up spending months or years -- and significant amounts of money -- cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their good name and credit record.

And despite efforts at cleanup, in the meantime victims may lose job opportunities, be refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even be arrested and incarcerated for crimes they did not commit.

Do you suspect that a large corporation has released your private information (through an accident or otherwise)? If you are one of many thousands whose confidential information was compromised, you may have a viable class action case against that company. [Contact an attorney](#) at the national plaintiffs' law firm of Lieff Cabraser to discuss your case. Lieff Cabraser defends Americans harmed by corporate wrongdoing.

What Do I Do If I've Had My Identity Stolen?

If you think your identity has been stolen from a large corporate database, here's what to do now (some of the following information was provided by the [Federal Trade Commission](#)):

- [Contact an identity theft attorney](#) at Lieff Cabraser about your situation by clicking here. Lieff Cabraser handles large class action cases against corporations that engage in irresponsible behavior that harms consumers and/or employees. There is no charge or obligation for our review of your case.
- Contact the [fraud departments](#) of any one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file. The fraud alert requests creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. As soon as the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the other two credit bureaus will be automatically notified to place fraud alerts. Once the alert is placed, you may order a free copy of your credit

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