

## Office of Student Financial Assistance

### Referral and Reporting Fraud

Lamar University's Office of Student Financial Aid will report any suspected fraud or falsified information (on the part of the student, the parent, preparer of financial aid applications or

2. Call the Office of the Inspector General Hotline. ~~Th~~umber is 1800-847-8733. Provide the representative with complete details surrounding your complaint. Include the contact information for the violator and a description of the incidents that occurred. When the operator asks for your personal information, you can elect to remain anonymous.
3. Submit your complaint via the web at:

[www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/index.html)  
or via U.S. Postal mail at:  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Inspector General Hotline  
400 Maryland Ave, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 202021500

(Your report can be made anonymously)  
For questions, please call 800-MISUSED (1-800-547-8733)\*

The complaint form asks for your personal information, information on the violator, and a description of the details surrounding the complaint. Individuals who wish to remain anonymous can download the special complaint form that omits the questions for personal identifying information.

## Identify Theft

What is Identify Theft?

When someone, without lawful authority, knowingly transfers or uses a “means of identification” of another person with the intent to commit, or aid or abet, any unlawful activity that violates Federal law or that constitutes a felony under any State or local law.

Avoiding Identity Theft

- Don't carry your SSN card w~~h~~ you.
- Shred sensitive information.
- Only carry what you use.
- Photocopy all cards in your wallet.
- Select hard to guess pins and passwords.

- Don't leave mail sitting in an unprotected box.
- Don't give out private information over the phone.
- Order your credit reports.
- Use caution when providing ANY sensitive information.

What to do if you suspect identity theft

First, contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax – <http://www.equifax.com> – Phone: 1800-525-6285
- Experian – <http://www.experian.com> – 888-397-3742
- TransUnion – <http://www.transunion.com> Phone: 1800-680-7289

Second, close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Third, file a police report with your local police or the police in the community where the theft took place.

Other Resources