

BUSINESS IDENTITY THEFT

What to do if someone is impersonating your business

What is business identity theft?

Business Identity Theft is the illegal impersonation of a business for personal or financial gain. Cybercriminals might use your business's financial information to illegally make purchases, open loans, or file a tax return.

What happens when your business's identity is stolen?



LOSS OF FUNDS

If a cybercriminal steals important financial information it could affect your ability to pay your employees or operating expenses.



NEGATIVE BUSINESS REPUTATION

A loss of funds and inability to pay bills will negatively affect your business's reputation with suppliers and customers.



LOWER BUSINESS CREDIT SCORE

If a cybercriminal gets ahold of your financial information, it could negatively affect your business credit score.



PERSONAL LIABILITY

As a business owner, your personal information is a prime target for identity thieves. Also, if any outstanding debt or loans are connected to you, you could be held liable.

What are the warning signs?

- You see withdrawals from your business bank account that you can't explain.
- You see unfamiliar activity on your business credit card.
- Your business receives unfamiliar bills.
- You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- You can't file taxes because someone has already filed taxes in your company's name.
- Debt collectors call you about debts that aren't yours.

What should you do if your business's identity is stolen?

- If your business financial information was stolen, immediately contact the appropriate financial institutions to put a freeze on your account(s).
- Collect all relevant documentation related to the incident. You may need to provide this documentation when you file a report or seek legal counsel.
- Pinpoint the accounts that were affected, who has access to those accounts, and the last time they were accessed.
- Report the incident to your local law enforcement agency by calling the non-emergency number. Obtain a copy of the incident report for insurance purposes and store it with other relevant documentation related to the incident.
- Notify the Secretary of State or relevant business filing state agency of the incident.
- If someone files a fraudulent tax return using your business's information, contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to file a report by calling (800-366-4484).

Visit FightCybercrime.org for more recovery resources.