

INVESTIGATOR TIPS

Be Prepared to Prove Your Identity

Did you know that, should you become a victim of identity theft, one of the first hurdles you'll face in trying to resolve the problems caused by the thief is actually proving you are you? How prepared are you to provide proof of your name, Social Security number, address history, and other pertinent information?

Sharing insight gained by restoring thousands of identities, Kroll Investigators give tips on how to be best prepared to prove your personal identity if required to do so:

Have your **Social Security card** available and stored in a secure location. If you have lost your Social Security card, get a replacement card. Find instructions at the [Social Security Administration's website](#).

Have two **utility bills** in your name. We talk to people who don't have any utility bills in their names because all of their home utility services were set up in their spouses' or roommates' name. Utility bills are often requested to verify your residence at a certain period of time. If possible, have at least two utility bills that list your name on the account.

Be familiar with your **credit account data**. Tasks common to identity theft victims, such as enrolling in credit report monitoring or requesting a credit report, require identity verification. You will be asked questions based on data found in one or more of your credit files. It is important that you know answers to such questions as the name of the lender for your mortgage or car loan, and the approximate amount of the monthly payments.

Update your **driver's license or state identification card** if you have moved. A victim is asked to provide a copy of a valid state identification that lists correct address information.

Also know your **address history**. A list of the addresses at which you've resided during the last five years is a common request on identity theft affidavits.

If you have other identification documents such as a passport or birth certificate, keep them stored securely in a location where you can retrieve them if needed.

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