



Children & Minors

One of the most insidious forms of identity fraud is the theft of a newborn's identity and the similar targeting of children under the age of eighteen.

Identity thieves increasingly prey upon these soft targets because these crimes often take years to detect.

We can help by proactively flagging the child as a minor with the credit bureaus to prevent fraudulent credit applications until the age of 18. This is a free part of our service and included in the WRAP™.

While parents find it unconscionable that their child's identity can be stolen from one so young, thousands are victimized each year. It is not uncommon for the Social Security numbers of newborns to be sold through the backdoor of the obstetric hospital to thieves, who then, for example, create bogus work permits each sold that night for illegal use.

Here are some amazing and truly scary statistics from a recent survey involving 40,000 children whose identity was researched:

- Over 10% had their identity stolen
- 54% of victims were under the Age of 12
- Largest fraudulent Debt: \$725,000
- A 2 Year old alleged in Bankruptcy
- A 9 Year old subject to Debt Collections
- Cases with multiple suspects attached to a child's SSN – meaning that identity has been passed around by many for the purposes of employment, bills, etc
- Loan and credit accounts form the most common fraudulent use of a child's ID, many children had multiple accounts attached to their identity. In most cases, the fraud against minors is perpetrated when the thief uses the child's identifiers to apply for credit, thereby creating a new credit file with few restrictions.

If the minor has already been victimized, our fraud specialist will work to remove the fraudulent entries, thereby reducing the likelihood of harmful information impeding the child's ability to secure legitimate credit when they reach the age of eighteen.

Once the fraudulent entries have been corrected, our fraud specialist can suppress the minor's credit file until they reach the age of eighteen.