

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Agency Use and Safeguarding Social Security Account Numbers



Identity Theft

As we all know, identity theft is a problem worldwide, and it is growing. It can happen to anyone, at any time. Identity theft is the criminal use of an individual's personal identification information. Identity thieves gain access to your personal information, whether your name, social security number, driver's license information, bank or credit card account numbers, etc., and use it to make purchases, apply for loans, or even seek employment. Victims of identity theft find it a constant – and sometimes unending – struggle to regain their financial situation.

DJJ has a vital interest in protecting its employees' personal information. We recently adopted FDJJ Policy 1700 – Agency Use and Safeguarding Social Security Account Numbers http://www.djj.state.fl.us/policies_procedures/Program_Accountability/Agency_Use_Safeguarding_SSN_Policy_DJJ-1700_signed_8-19-09.pdf – which limits the access and use of employee's Social Security number, and DJJ has scaled back the collection of employees' full social security numbers. The policy now more closely reflects Section 119.071(5) of the Florida Statutes, which contain severe penalties for anyone convicted of identity theft.

One of the best sources of information on identity theft is on the Florida Attorney General's website. In particular, it contains information on how to prevent yourself from becoming a victim. If you do become a victim, the site has a "Florida's Identity Theft Victim Kit" of what to do. See <http://myfloridalegal.com/identitytheft>. Closely follow the information provided there.