

Protect Your Privacy



It is important that we, as consumers, cautiously guard our personal information or we may find ourselves the next victim of identity theft. With something as simple as our social security number, criminals can adopt our identity to obtain loans, credit cards, or even jobs. The damage a criminal can cause to our credit may take years of anguish to correct, but by following a few simple tips we can help reduce the chances that someone will steal our identity.

Steps for protecting your privacy:

- Pay attention to Privacy Notices. You are probably receiving many of these documents; keep them with your other financial papers. Privacy Notices include important information about how to opt-out of having your name, account balance, debt level, and other financial information sold to unaffiliated third parties. Unless specifically allowed to by law, South Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance does not make your information available to unaffiliated third parties. Therefore, you do not have to choose to opt-out with our company.
- Protect your account numbers, card numbers, PINs (Personal Identification Number), and passwords. NEVER keep your PIN with your credit or debit cards; this will make you an easy target if you lose your card or if it is stolen.
- Do not reveal any information that you think may be unnecessary, such as your maiden name, birth date, past addresses, or driver's license numbers. Also, use caution in revealing account numbers and social security numbers.
- Carefully review all of your Billing Statements to make certain there are no unauthorized transactions.
- Watch what you throw away. You never know where it might end up. Before disposing of sales receipts, or documents and statements of any kind, make sure your account number and any personal information is blocked out or shredded.
- Do not leave mail in your mailbox for an extended period of time. Mail left in a mailbox is a good source of personal information, so remember to call your area post office before going on vacation.
- You can obtain a copy of your credit report every few years to determine if it is accurate. If someone has used your personal identification to establish credit or to attempt to establish credit, report the incident as quickly as possible to each of the credit reporting agencies below and request that a fraud alert be placed on your file. This will require a reporting agency to call you and verify all new accounts being opened.
- Do not give out personal information on a cell phone because information can be easily intercepted.

- You may have your name removed from Direct Marketing Lists (listed below) to reduce the amount of direct advertising you receive. You will need to provide your name, address, and telephone number with your request.

Mail Preference Service
c/o Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

Telephone Preference Service
c/o Direct Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9014
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

E-mail Preference Service
www.e-mps.org

Remember, criminals can obtain your personal information in any number of ways, such as ordering credit reports, digging through garbage, stealing mail, snatching purses and wallets, or even listening to cellular phone conversations. Make sure that you take the steps to protect yourself and your privacy.