# WHO TO CONTACT



#### Colorado Secretary of State Business Division 1700 Broadway, Ste 550

Denver, CO 80290 Phone: 303-894-2200

Email: business@coloradosos.gov Website: coloradosos.gov



Colorado Bureau of Investigation Identity Theft Unit 690 Kipling Street, Ste 3000 Denver, CO 80215 Phone: 303-239-4242

Email: <u>reportbusinessfraud@state.co.us</u> Website: <u>https://cbi.colorado.gov/</u>



#### Colorado Attorney General's Office

1525 Sherman Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-4500

File complaint: <u>https://coag.gov/file-complaint/</u> Website: <u>coloradoattorneygeneral.gov</u>

# **BUSINESS ID THEFT** RESOURCE GUIDE

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation ID Theft Unit, the Colorado Attorney General, and the Colorado Secretary of State have developed the business Identity Theft Resource Guide to provide businesses and their representatives with a complete reference guide on business identity theft.

This guide is available by visiting the following link:

coloradosos.gov/pubs/business/ ProtectYourBusiness/protectYour Business.html

### **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank the Colorado Bankers Association, the Secretary of State's Business Advisory Committee, Colorado Bar Association, and the Chambers of Commerce for helping to distribute this information to the business community.

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# BUSINESS IDENTITY THEFT

Protecting your Business & Resources

#### Colorado Secretary of State

# WHAT IS BUSINESS IDENTITY THEFT?

In the case of a business, a criminal takes over the identity of a business and uses that identity to establish lines of credit with banks or retailers. Using this credit, the identity thief purchases goods, gift cards, and other items that can be bought and exchanged for cash, or sold with relative ease.

The damage can be devastating to the business and to the credit history. This can lead to denial of credit. Correcting the damage can be both costly and timely.

## WHAT CAN A BUSINESS DO?

This brochure and other materials were created to help businesses reduce the threat and to help those businesses that have already fallen victim to these crimes.

# PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

Take the following initial steps to protect your business from identity theft:



Sign up for Secure Business Filing. Secure Business Filing works best when you include more email addresses of trusted parties, so that you are not locked out of your account. Other trusted parties to consider are:

- Your registered agent
- Your accountant
- Your lawyer
- You can also add yourself under another email address

Subscribe to the Secretary of State's e-mail notification services

Obtain a commercial credit report for your business

Sign up for electronic notifications with your bank, other creditors, and service providers

These are your first steps to protecting your business. Your effort should not stop there. For more information on additional steps to protect your business, see the Business Identity Theft Resource Guide available at:

coloradosos.gov/pubs/busine ss/ ProtectYourBusiness/ protectYourBusiness.html

# VICTIMS OF BUSINESS IDENTITY THEFT

If you believe your business is a victim of identity theft, you should immediately take the following steps to begin the recovery process:

- Report the theft to your local law enforcement agency
- Contact all your business' banks, or credit providers and report the theft
- Contact credit reporting agencies and speak with the fraud department to report the crime and view your business credit report

For a complete list, see the Business Identity Theft Resource Guide available at:

coloradosos.gov/pubs/ business/ProtectYourBusiness/ protectYourBusiness.html

If you need support, contact the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and request the help of a Victim's Advocate.