



Five Ways to Protect Your Identity

Your name is Sally and you're from San Antonio and you're tone deaf. So why is Peter from Pittsburgh racking up an impressive collection of piccolos on Sally's credit card account? Sally may be the victim of identity theft. Texas CPAs give you five ways to protect your identity.

1. Order a free copy of your credit report at www.AnnualCreditReport.com and review it for unauthorized accounts.
2. Shred all expired credit cards, as well as pre-screened credit card offers and loan applications you receive in the mail.
3. Carry only those credit and debit cards you need. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet.
4. Avoid giving personal information out over the telephone or the Internet unless you initiate the contact.
5. Use passwords on your accounts, but don't use easily accessible ones like your mother's maiden name.

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