



Illinois
Department of
Corrections

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Roger E. Walker Jr.
Director

1301 Concordia Court / P.O. Box 19277 / Springfield IL 62794-9277 / Telephone: (217) 522-2666 / TDD: (800) 526-0844

MEMORANDUM

TO: All IDOC Staff
FROM: Roger E. Walker Jr., Director
DATE: September 11, 2006
SUBJECT: Security of Personal Information

Within the past few days, it has come to my attention that a Department report containing the names, salaries, and social security numbers of many Department employees was found at an outside location, where it should not have been. Please be assured that we are taking all appropriate steps to investigate this incident, and to insure that it is not repeated. While we have no reason to believe that the information has been misused, we want to inform you of the incident so you can take steps to protect yourself.

There are some simple steps you can take to protect yourself against identity theft and other fraudulent misuse of your personal information. Initially, you will want to watch for any unusual activity on your credit card accounts or suspicious items on your bills for the foreseeable future. You may wish to contact your credit card issuers to inform them of what has taken place. You also should take note of the following:

- Under federal law, you are entitled to a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies once every twelve months. You may obtain a free copy by going on-line at www.AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling 1-877-FACTACT (1-877-322-8228). If you would rather write, a request form is available at www.AnnualCreditReport.com. You may wish to obtain copies of your credit reports to insure the accuracy of the information.
- To protect yourself further, you may wish to contact the fraud departments of the three major credit reporting companies. They will discuss your options with you. You have the right to ask that they place a "fraud alert" in your file. Such an alert can make it more difficult for someone to get credit in your name because it tells creditors to follow certain procedures to protect you. It also may delay your own ability to obtain credit. You may

place a fraud alert in your file by calling just one of the three major credit reporting companies. Once that company processes your request for a fraud alert, it will notify the two other credit reporting companies, which then must also place a fraud alert in your file.

- The three major credit reporting companies are:

Equifax
Report Fraud: 1-800-525-6285
www.equifax.com

Experian
Report Fraud: 1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com

TransUnion
Report Fraud: 1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com

As we all have become painfully aware, identity theft is an ever-growing problem in our society. To learn more about identity theft and possible means of prevention, you can go to <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft> or <http://www.ftc.gov/credit>, or you can call 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338). The Department is in the process of placing links to those websites on the IDOC home page and should have them operational within the next few days. If you believe you have been the victim of identity theft, in addition to contacting the credit reporting companies and your local police department, please also report it to our Departmental investigations unit.