

# Places to Never Share Your Social Security Number

Here's a secret way to keep your identity—and that of your loved ones—secure: Don't give out your Social Security number (SSN) unless it's absolutely required. That's right. Most of the time, it's OK to say no to places that ask for it. **Here's what you need to know.**

## Why You Should Care

**15.4 M**

identity theft victims  
a year

**1 IN 3**

data breach victims  
experience identity fraud

**\$16 B**

lost to identity fraud  
a year

### Common Ways SSNs Are Stolen

- + Data breaches
- + Stolen wallet or purse
- + Stolen mail
- + Dumpster-diving
- + Phishing calls and emails

### Stolen SSNs Can Be Used To...

- + Open financial accounts
- + Get medical care
- + File false tax returns
- + Commit crimes
- + Steal government benefits

### When A SSN May Be Required

- + Credit applications
- + Tax returns
- + Military paperwork
- + Government benefits applications
- + Department of Motor Vehicles
- + Companies that sell products or services that require notification to the IRS

## Places To Never Share A SSN



Job Applications



Hospitals, Medical Offices



Drugstores



Public Schools



Children's Camps



Sports Clubs



Supermarkets



Charities



Airlines



Email

Suspect you're a victim of identity theft? Contact your bank, credit union, insurer or employer, which may provide identity management services from CyberScout.

**CYBERSCOUT**<sup>™</sup>  
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE<sup>™</sup>

#### Sources:

- 1 "2017 Identity Fraud: Securing the Connected Life," Javelin Strategy & Research.
- 2 "Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number," Social Security Administration.
- 3 "How Thieves Steal Your Identity," lifehacker, April 10, 2012, <http://lifehacker.com/5900782/how-thieves-steal-your-identity-and-how-you-can-protect-yourself>.
- 4 "What An Identity Thief Can Do With a Social Security Number," Credit.com, Feb. 17, 2015, <http://blog.credit.com/2015/02/5-things-an-identity-thief-can-do-with-your-social-security-number-1085977>.
- 5 "When Are Social Security Numbers Required?" ConsumerMan, NBCNews.com, [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/12359845/ns/business-consumer\\_news/t/when-are-social-security-numbers-required/#.WKShlxDU9kc](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/12359845/ns/business-consumer_news/t/when-are-social-security-numbers-required/#.WKShlxDU9kc).