Identity Theft & What You Should Know

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<u>Identity theft</u> is something everyone worries about, but nobody truly understands how devastating it can be until it happens to them. Nobody is exempt from being a target of identity theft, even minors. Below are a few tips to help you avoid having your identity stolen:

- Scammers only need one important piece of information to steal your identity. Never give your social security number to anyone on the telephone or the internet.
- Be careful of what personal information you post on social media websites. Thieves will comb through your networking sites to obtain necessary personal information to pull off their con.
- Review your monthly bills, bank accounts, and credit card statements for any inaccuracies. In fact, it is wise to review your accounts online every week if possible. The thieves may make small purchases that do not stand out or set off any fraud alerts.
- Review your credit report on a regular basis, at a minimum, once a year. You are entitled to one
 free copy of your credit report from the three major reporting agencies every 12 months at
 www.annualcreditreport.com.
- Use caution when using ATMs. Beware of anyone standing behind you in line trying to see your code. Also, use machines at reputable location. Do not use an ATM that looks unusual, it may have a card scanner that is used to capture your information.
- Shred your financial documents before you throw them away. Additionally, have your statements sent electronically to reduce the amount of documents containing your financial data.

If you believe that your identity has been stolen and you need assistance, contact a lawyer to help you. It can be a difficult process, but you can deal with the consequences of having your identity stolen, clear your name of the fraud, and get your finances back on the right track.

If you would like a down-to-earth approach and a lawyer who will listen carefully to all your questions and concern, call <u>The Dodds Law Firm, PLC</u> at 623-209-8923 begin of the skype highlighting 623-209-8923 end of the skype highlighting. Dan Dodds serves clients primarily in the areas of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcies, real estate issues, violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and issues of Unfair or Deceptive Business Practices. Mr. Dodds and his staff know how to listen carefully, and how to explain the law and procedures involved in a legal matter, as well as your rights and options, so that you can make informed choices. If you live in the area of Surprise, Arizona, call The Dodds Law Firm, PLC.