

Risk Management / Safe Environment News

Identity Theft on the Decline?

By Tom Nelson
Accutrak

Last fall we wrote an article about identity theft; the causes, tips on how to avoid becoming a victim, and what to do if you are. Although it is still a cause for concern, new information is coming to light that is very encouraging, much to the dismay of privacy advocates, but good news to the rest of us.

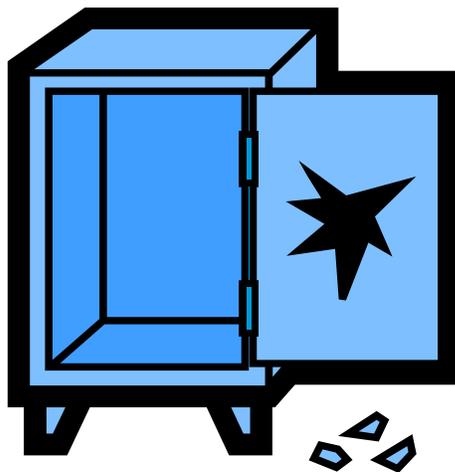
According to the new study, although identity theft still affects millions of consumers, it may actually be on the decline. James Van Dyke of the Javelin, Inc., a research firm that conducted the study, about 9 million consumers were affected in 2004, compared to about 10 million in 2003. Contrary to some popular beliefs, using the internet may be a consumer's best friend and fraud fighting tool. The risk of identity theft via the Internet has been grossly exaggerated according to Van Dyke. The reason? Many more of us are using the Internet for banking, credit card account review, and other financial needs. This instant access to accounts makes it easier for us to spot potential errors quickly and act, rather than wait for the mail or other traditional means of review. Van Dyke reports that those who spot online fraud suffer an average theft of \$500, while other consumers suffer losses closer to \$4,500.

The study also reports that personal data is most often stolen offline from other employ-

ees, mail theft, and from our trash. Only 12% of the victims in the study reported their information stolen electronically.

FTC attorney Lois Greisman said, "The crime is not growing. We are seeing a leveling off, and that's a positive signal."

Fraud investigators have known for a long time that most identity thieves do not use public records or computers to steal identities. Restricting access to public records as some have suggested is like attempting to stop telephone fraud by eliminating the public's access to telephones. Common sense, being diligent and enforcing the current laws is still the best defense against identity theft, and the trends suggest it is working!



Heat and Cars: Look Before You Leave

During the summer of 2003, 10 Texas children, most of them infants, died after being left in vehicles in which they had been riding. In fact, the Lone Star State led the nation for the number of such fatalities. None of these tragic events would have occurred had each child's adult caregiver remembered to remove them from their vehicles once they arrived at their destination.

It's hard to imagine having to warn parents or caregivers about leaving children alone in cars during the heat of the summer. But many car-

ing and responsible people can forget the silent or sleeping child in the backseat. Others do not realize the risks involved in leaving their children in the car and what begins as a quick errand can turn to tragedy in a matter of minutes.

If children are trapped inside cars, especially during seriously hot weather, it can result in heat exhaustion or heat stroke, leading to permanent disability or death. Heat stroke, also known as hyperthermia, can cause shock, seizures, irregular heartbeat, heart attack, and

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damage to the brain, liver, and kidneys.

Statistics

How long does it take for a car to get hot?*

Outside Temperature	Temperature In Car	Time It Takes To Reach
75	100	10 min.
75	120	30 min.
85	90	5 min.
85	120	7-10 min.
85	120	30 min.
100	140	15 min.

*Compiled by TDFPS from various national resources

See page 2 for tips on "How To Prevent Tragedy"

Safety Officer Spotlight: Jerry Waynant

Jerry Waynant is our Safety Officer Spotlight for this quarter. He is the Safety Officer for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Mark's and he also serves on the Diocesan Safe Environment Committee. He has been a part of the faith community at St. Mark's for the past 32 years. He has been married for 45 years to Margie and both have four children and four grandchildren.

In 1995 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton began a Risk Reduction Program and he has been a part of that for the last 10 years. He is also involved in CAPCO (Child Abuse Prevention Coalition) sponsored by the Injury Prevention Cen-

ter whose mission is to mobilize the community to prevent child abuse through education, increased public awareness, advocacy, program development and collaboration.

His most rewarding experience as a Safety Officer has been "watching the acceptance of the program change from 10 years ago when people thought the idea was overkill," he said. "My unique perspective that I bring to the Safe Environment Program is the ability to bring new ideas and material from other sources, such as CAPCO," he continued.

His funniest story during his service in the Safe Environment Program has been when an

elderly lady was sure that the next thing the program would ask of her was to give her a cup for a specimen for a drug test.

Jerry has been a great asset to the Safe Environment Program since it began in 1995 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and when asked to share more of his experiences all he added was, "I am just thankful for the opportunity to serve."

The Risk Management/Safe Environment Office would like to THANK Jerry for his total commitment to the Safety of our Church community and the community at large.

THANK YOU JERRY!!

Heat and Cars: Look Before You Leave

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How To Prevent Tragedy

- * Never leave your car keys where children can get them.
- * Keep car doors and trunks locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- * Teach children not to play in or around cars.
- * Never leave your child unattended in a car, even if the windows are down and a windshield shade is in place or even just to run a quick errand.
- * Make sure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination.
- * Don't overlook sleeping infants.
- * Make sure that the seat belt and seat surface are not too hot before buckling up your child.
- * When you and your children exit the car, place a windshield shade in front and back windows to help cut down on the heat.
- * Make sure that kid's arms, legs, fingers, and toes are safely inside before closing

doors.

- * Keep the rear fold-down seats closed to prevent kids from getting into the trunk from inside the car.
- * Contact your auto dealership about getting your vehicle retrofitted with a trunk release mechanism.
- * Be wary of child-resistant locks—make sure they function.
- * If your child gets locked inside a car, get him or her out as soon as possible. If you can't get him or her out yourself, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.

Information adapted from Kids In Cars (www.kidsincars.org) and National Safe Kids Campaign (www.safekids.org)

Next Safety Officer Meeting:

Tuesday, August 9, 2005

11:00 AM

**Catholic Conference & Formation
Center**

901 S. Madison Ave. Dallas

Contact Jerry Waynant

**jwaynant@eseton.org to RSVP for
lunch**

What is Bullying?

Bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose and the person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. Bullying can be:

- Punching, shoving, and other acts that hurt people physically.
- Spreading bad rumors about people.
- Keeping certain people out of a "group".
- Teasing people in a mean way.
- Getting certain people to "gang up" on others.

Why do kids bully?

- Because they see others doing it.
- Because it's what they do if they want to hang out with the right crowd.
- Because it makes them feel stronger, smarter, or better than the person they are bullying.

Effects of bullying

- It can mess up a kid's future.

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Risk Management: Online Training

Remember that you have access to all the online resources of Church Law Today. The website is www.churchlawtoday.com. Our user name is “Dallas” and our password is “Diocese”. We are highlighting the Church Safety Center in this newsletter. By weekly accessing the Risk Management Plan, completing the topic and the checklist, you will be conducting a risk management plan. Over the course of two years of following the plan, you will complete a comprehensive risk assessment and conduct good loss control efforts for your location.

<u>July 2005</u>	<u>August 2005</u>	<u>September 2005</u>
<p>July 4: Reducing Slips and Falls and Other Accidents on Church Property: Wet Floors and Waxed Floors</p> <p>July 11: Reducing Transportation Risks: Selecting Routes</p> <p>July 18: Reducing Transportation Risks: Responding to Mechanical Problems</p> <p>July 25: Safeguarding Recreational Activities: Football</p>	<p>August 1: Reducing Slips and Falls and Other Accidents on Church Property</p> <p>August 8: Safeguarding Recreational Activities: Golf</p> <p>August 15: Safeguarding Recreational Activities: Volleyball</p> <p>August 22: Reducing Accidents in Church Kitchens</p> <p>August 29: Reducing the Risk of Church Fires: Evacuations and Fire Response Roles</p>	<p>September 5: Enhancing the Personal Safety of Church Staff Members in Responding to Transients</p> <p>September 12: Safeguarding Recreational Activities: Hayrides</p> <p>September 19: Safeguarding Recreational Activities: Aerobic Classes and Exercise Programs</p>

- It scares some kids so much that they skip school.
- It can lead to huge problems when kids grow up.

Are you being bullied?

If you are being bullied it can feel pretty awful. But, no matter how bad it makes you feel you should know you're not alone. That's right, there are plenty of kids who go through the same things. You may feel helpless but there are a lot of things you can do to help yourself out.

Have you seen someone being bullied?

If you see it happen to others, you

can help put a stop it. There are all kinds of great things you can do to make things better and set a positive example for kids who are being bullied. So the next time you see someone being bullied, try to make a real difference!

Do you bully others?

Let's face it, hurting and making others feel bad is NEVER cool. Just admitting that you are doing things to harm others takes some guts. Think about what you're doing and how it affects others. All of us have been hurt at one time or another and we all know how it feels—awful!

What to do about bullying?

- No matter how you've been af-

ected by bullying, it's a good idea to talk to an adult.

- Remember, it is not your fault that you are being bullied. No one deserves to be bullied.
- If you see bullying, tell an adult like a teacher or principal. If you've told a grown-up before and he hasn't done anything about it, try telling someone else.
- Stay in a group. If you spend more time with other kids, you won't be an easy "target" and you'll have others around to help you if you get in a bad situation!

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Grand Jury clears diocese of allegations that it violates abuse law

A special grand jury impaneled to examine the child-abuse reporting practices of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas said clearly it “has found no evidence of criminal wrong-doing on the part of the diocese or its officials.”

The five-month investigation initiated by District Attorney Bill Hill into public allegations that the diocese was failing to report all child-abuse allegations ended June 27.

Dallas Bishop Grahmann said of the announcement, “I am pleased that the investigation has been concluded and the findings confirm our position that there has been no wrong-doing by the Diocese of Dallas or its officials in reporting cases of child –abuse.”

Two previous outside audits by former FBI officials over the past two years have also confirmed the diocese follows the law. *(as reported by Texas Catholic, Vol. 54, No. 1)*

What is Bullying?

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- Support someone who is being bullied. Be a friend. Walk home with them after school, try to include them in activities, or spend some time with them.

Information adapted from Take A Stand. Lend A Hand. Stop Bullying Now! <http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov> Safety Tips for Kids

Report Child Abuse

Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Secure Website:

www.txabusehotline.org

If it is an emergency call 911 or your local law enforcement agency

Give Your Baby a Chance at Life

In desperate situations, some parents feel the need to abandon their infant children. The **Baby Moses Law**—established to address an increase in the number of abandoned newborns—allows parents to surrender their babies in a protective environment.

If you feel the need to abandon your newborn, the **Baby Moses Law** provides you with a safe and legal option. This law protects parents from criminal prosecution when they

deliver an unharmed child, younger than 60 days, to a designated emergency infant care provider such as a Fire Station, Police Department, or a hospital.



Baby Moses Law

Have questions?

Call 1-877-904-SAVE (operated by Harris County Protective Services).

For more information visit the following website:

www.itsuptoyou.org