



**Weld County  
District Attorney's Office  
Nineteenth Judicial District**

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## **What is identity theft?**

Identity theft is what happens when someone impersonates you through the unauthorized use of your personal identifying and financial information, usually with the intent of stealing your money, committing fraud and other crimes.

This identifying information includes your social security number, driver's license information, bank account and credit card numbers, birth date, passwords for accounts and more.

Once thieves have this information, they will use it to empty out your accounts and open new credit accounts with your information, incurring hundreds and thousands of dollars of debt in your name. Identity theft is often tied to other crimes, including drug usage. If someone is stealing your identity in order to steal your money, they may be doing something illegal with that money once they have it.

Identity theft represents more than just the loss of someone's money; it also represents the loss of security, independence and self-worth. People who have had their identity stolen often spend months or years, along with their own hard-earned money, dealing with the aftermath of endless paperwork, dealing with creditors and working with debt collectors.

**In Colorado, ID theft is a class four felony (2-6 years in prison).**