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## Most ID theft victims don't need a police report

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When it comes to reporting and recovering from identity theft, we're simplifying the process by eliminating the need for a police report in most cases.

How does it work? When you report identity theft using [IdentityTheft.gov](#), you'll answer some questions about what happened. IdentityTheft.gov then uses your information to create the tools you need to begin your recovery, including:

- a personal recovery plan
- pre-filled letters to send to merchants, banks, and others affected by the identity theft, and
- an "Identity Theft Report," which is your official statement about the crime.

**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**  
**Identity Theft Report** FTC Report Number: 445-753

I am the victim of identity theft. This is my official statement about the crime.

**Contact Information**

Name: Jane May Smith  
Address: 100 Main Street, Washington, DC 20405  
Phone: 202-876-5309  
Email: jane.smith@email.com

**Personal Statement**

I received a credit card bill from Chase, even though I've never had a credit card with Chase. I called and the bank said I needed to file out an identity theft report. Just a few days later, I got a call from Verizon about buying a new iPhone. I told them I didn't buy an iPhone. Someone else had gone to a store in New Jersey and added two new lines to my account.

**Accounts Affected by the Crime**

Credit card opened by the thief		
Company or Organization: Chase		
Account Number: 568889888		
Date fraud began	Date that I discovered it	Total fraudulent amount
1/15/16	3/15/16	\$400

  

Mobile phone with fraudulent charges (account takeover)		
Company or Organization: Verizon Wireless		
Account Number: 58-70000889		
Date fraud began	Date that I discovered it	Total fraudulent amount
1/15/16	3/15/16	\$300

OMB CONTROL # 3284-0047

In most cases, you can use your Identity Theft Report in place of a police report to clear your account and credit records of transactions that resulted from the identity theft. That's because when you use [IdentityTheft.gov](#), you're reporting the crime to the Federal Trade Commission, a federal law enforcement agency. Just like when you file a police report, you're legally obligated to tell the truth to the best of your

knowledge, and subject to criminal penalties if you don't. That makes your Identity Theft Report powerful evidence that you're telling the truth.

By reducing the need for police reports, [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov) helps you get started on your recovery quickly, and helps free local police to focus on public safety. Still, [contact the police to report identity theft](#) if:

- ▶ you know the identity thief, or have other information that could help a police investigation
- ▶ an identity thief used your name in a traffic stop or any encounter with police, or
- ▶ a creditor, debt collector, or someone else affected by the identity theft insists that you produce a police report.

To learn more about identity theft, browse our [recovery steps](#), or visit our [Privacy and Identity](#) page for prevention tips.

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