

# 5 signs your teen may be a victim of identity theft



Children are choice targets for identity thieves. They usually have squeaky-clean credit, and they may not notice the crime for years, until they apply for their own credit cards or car loans. As a parent, you can be on the lookout for the following red flags.

## 1 You find something unusual in your mailbox



Watch for notices from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) saying your child hasn't paid taxes or that her Social Security number is being used on a tax return other than yours. Also take note of financial junk mail that's addressed to your child, including pre-approved credit card offers.

## 2 Bill collectors are looking for your child

Calls from companies trying to collect money for goods or services that neither you nor your child purchased could indicate that fraud or identity theft has occurred.



## 3 She's turned down for a driver's license



If your son or daughter is denied a driver's license because there's a license in another state using that name, ID theft may have taken place.

## 4 His bank account shows unexplained withdrawals

If your child has a bank account, make sure you check it periodically for withdrawals he didn't make. Unusual activity could be a sign of fraud and should be reported to the bank.



## 5 Her credit report shows incorrect information



Frequent checks of your child's credit can indicate if anyone else is using her personal information to apply for credit or open accounts. If you haven't looked at your child's credit report by her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Federal Trade Commission recommends you take that step even if you don't suspect fraud. That way you have enough time to make any corrections before she applies for a full-time job or a car loan.

If you suspect your child's information has been compromised, the FTC outlines how to find out for sure and repair any damage.



Neither Bank of America nor any of its affiliates provide legal, tax or accounting advice. You should consult your legal and/or tax advisors before making any financial decisions.

The material provided on this website is for informational use only and is not intended for financial or investment advice. Bank of America and/or its partners assume no liability for any loss or damage resulting from one's reliance on the material provided. Please also note that such material is not updated regularly and that some of the information may not therefore be current. Consult with your own financial professional when making decisions regarding your financial or investment management.

**Better Money Habits®**

Powered by **Bank of America** in partnership with **KHANACADEMY**

For more information, visit [bettermoneyhabits.com](https://bettermoneyhabits.com)