

# Simple mistakes or ID theft?

**TWC records your wages and unemployment benefit claims by Social Security number. Typing errors or identity theft could affect your claim and privacy.**



**Y**our **Social Security number (SSN)** is your most valuable piece of identification. It opens doors to so much of your personal and financial information that criminals try to steal it.

When you apply for unemployment benefits, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) uses your SSN to verify your income and work history. We keep your SSN confidential. If TWC finds that an employer has reported wages for your SSN that do not belong to you, the problem may be due to a **typing error or identity (ID) theft**.

**TWC learns about incorrectly reported wages when you apply for benefits.**

**Typing errors** can occur when:

- An employer gives TWC an incorrect or incomplete SSN;
- An employer reports wages from another worker to your SSN;
- A clerk types your SSN incorrectly while entering your wages; or
- You incorrectly type your SSN when applying for benefits online.

**ID theft** means someone stole your SSN to:

- Avoid paying Social Security taxes;
- Work in the United States;
- Steal money from your bank accounts; or
- Engage in other illegal activities.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Your SSN

### Q. How do I correct errors on my unemployment benefits claim?

After you apply for benefits, TWC sends you documents that include your name, the last four digits of your SSN, and wage records from your last employer(s). Check all documents carefully to ensure that we have the right name, SSN, and wages, on your claim. **Contact us immediately if there are errors, missing wages, or wages that do not belong to you.**

### Q. If I am not applying for benefits, how do I correct an employer's mistake?

If an employer reports wages under your SSN that do not belong to you, **ask the employer** to submit a correction to TWC. Wage corrections must come from employers.

### Q. What should I do if I suspect identity theft?

Report identity theft immediately. **Print, clip, and keep the information in the box below.** Refer to it when you suspect ID theft.

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# How to Report Identity Theft

## To report stolen identity, contact the following:

- **Office of Attorney General (OAG), ID Theft**, [www.texasfightsidtheft.gov](http://www.texasfightsidtheft.gov).
- **ID Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW. Washington, DC 25080; call 1-877-ID-THEFT, (877) 438-4338, TDD: (866) 653-4261, [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft).
- **Texas Department of Public Safety**, <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/idtheft/idtheft2.htm>.

TDPS recommends that you file a criminal report by contacting your local police department or sheriff's office, the Social Security Administration (SSA), and at least one of the three major credit-reporting agencies on this list.

## Social Security Administration:

- Call toll free at 1-800-269-0271 or fax SSA at (410) 597-0118; or
- Write the SSA Fraud Hotline, PO Box 17768, Baltimore, MD 21235; or
- Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/org](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/org). Type Identity Theft in the search box.
- You may also call 1-800-772-1213 to verify the accuracy of the earnings reported on your SSN or to request a copy of your Social Security Statement. You may also find a helpful SSA publication, 05-10064, *Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number*, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html).



## To request credit reports:

- Go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) to get a free copy of your credit report; or
- Call 1-877-322-8228; or
- Complete an Annual Credit Report Request Form at [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit), and mail the completed form to Annual Credit Report Request Service, PO Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

## To report fraud directly to credit reporting agencies:

- Equifax: Call 1-800-525-6285 or write to PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374 or go to [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com).
- Experian: Call 1-888-397-3742 or write PO Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013 or go to [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com).
- TransUnion: Call 1-800-680-7289 or write PO Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634 or go to [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com).