

## The New Identity Theft Law

Identity thieving is now a pandemic, and a scourge for its victims. Is the federal polity finally ready to fight back? The Identity Theft and Restitution Act of 2008 was recently signed into law by President Bush. The newborn law is supposed to attain it easier for the polity to convict those charged with pursuing processed indistinguishability theft. Supporters advertizer this legislation as allowing federal prosecutors to be more aggressive in cracking down on indistinguishability thieving cyber crime. But module it work to protect jillions of future victims? The newborn law provides for the following: 1. Discarding the responsibility that alteration to a victim's machine top \$5,000 over a digit assemblage period before charges can be asserted for unauthorized access to a computer. 2. Eliminating the interstate jurisdictional requirement, thus allowing continuation of those who steal personal information from a computer, modify when the victim's machine is located in the aforementioned state as the thief's computer.

3. Allowing victims of indistinguishability thieving to essay restitution for an turn equal to the value of the time reasonably spent to mend their problems. 4. Adding the charge of a conspiracy to send cyber crimes. (The prior law exclusive allowed for charges related to the actual crime, and made no provisions for conspiracy to send the underlying charge.) 5. Adding the remedies of civil and criminal forfeiture to meliorate earmark federal prosecutors to combat cyber crime. Individuals found guilty of violating the act can be unnatural to forfeit both concept used in authorisation of the cyber crime, as substantially as concept obtained from any proceeds gained from the cyber crime. 6. Making it a felony to electronically alteration decade or more computers no concern the value of the alteration caused. 7. Making it a evildoing to threaten to steal or promulgation information from an individual's computer. (Prior law exclusive permissible the continuation of those who essay to extort companies or polity agencies by explicitly threatening to shut down or alteration a computer.) It is intended that the newborn law module earmark federal prosecutors to be much more aggressive in prosecuting indistinguishability thieving criminals. Elimination of both the \$5,000 alteration responsibility and the interstate jurisdictional responsibility should attain it easier for prosecutors to alter charges. But module it rattling help? The federal polity has tried to keep up with indistinguishability thieving for years with few results. If the feds are truly fascinated in stamping out the pandemic, it is with the enforcement of the laws, and not just newborn laws, that module turn the tide. Still, there are encouraging signs that a wide ranging effort is existence made. The bureau is helping out by allowing in this next assemblage all but the last quaternary digits of taxpayer ID numbers to be blocked out on 1099's, W-2s, and another informational returns. There is privacy in that move.