Internet Safety Tips

AUCTION FRAUD

- Before you bid, contact the seller with any questions you have.
- Review the seller's feedback.
- Be cautious when dealing with individuals outside of your own country.
- Ensure you understand refund, return, and warranty policies.
- Determine the shipping charges before you buy.
- Be wary if the seller only accepts wire transfers or cash.

IDENTITY THEFT

- Ensure websites are secure prior to submitting your credit card #. Look for https: and a lock symbol.
- Do your homework to ensure the business or website is legitimate.
- Attempt to obtain a physical address, rather than a P.O. box.
- Never throw away credit card or bank statements in usable form.
- Be aware of missed bills which could indicate your account has been taken over.
- Be cautious of scams requiring you to provide your personal information.
- Never give your credit card number over the phone unless you make the call.

IDENTITY THEFT

- Monitor your credit statements monthly for any fraudulent activity.
- Report unauthorized transactions to your bank or credit card company as soon as possible.
- Review a copy of your credit report at least once a year.

PHISHING/SPOOFING

- Be suspicious of any unsolicited email requesting personal information.
- Avoid filling out forms in email messages that ask for personal information.
- Log on to the official website, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited email.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify if the e-mail is genuine.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD

- Ensure a site is secure and reputable before providing your credit card number online.
- Promptly reconcile credit card statements to avoid unauthorized charges.
- Do your research to ensure legitimacy of the individual or company.
- Beware of providing credit card information when requested through unsolicited emails.

Cybercrime Tips:

Internet Crime

BLOOMINGTON POLICE IL.

What to do if you're a victim

What is Internet Crime?

Internet crime is defined as any illegal activity involving one or more components of the Internet, such as websites, chat rooms, and/or email. Internet crime involves the use of the Internet to communicate false or fraudulent representations to consumers.

Types of Internet Crime

These crimes may include, but are not limited to, advance-fee schemes, non-delivery of goods or services, computer hacking, or employment/business opportunity schemes.

Who is going to help you?

The Bloomington Police Department and the Internet Crime Complaint Center (**IC3**). IC3 is the result of a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). IC3 is the national clearing house for all internet/cybercrime cases. The Bloomington Police department is an active member of IC3 and governed by a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

What to do if you are a victim

1. **Make a Bloomington Police Report and provide them with any evidence you may have that is related to the crime.**
2. **You should be given a copy of this brochure.**
3. **Go online and navigate to: www.ic3.gov. (Internet Crime Complaint Center)**
4. **Click the red button which says "File a Complaint"**
5. **Follow the steps and fill out the form completely.**

What happens after you make a complaint with Bloomington P.D.?

The Bloomington Police Department will complete a written report and secure any evidence you turn over. The case will be assigned to a BPD detective. Please be patient as detectives have multiple cases assigned to them. The BPD detective will contact IC3 for information concerning others victimized by the same suspect(s) from your case. This allows the detective to seek enhanced criminal penalties against the suspect(s).

What happens after you file a complaint with IC3?

You will receive an email containing your complaint number and password. This email will contain a link to an area on their website where you can view and/or download an Adobe PDF version of your complaint, and also provide additional information to be added to your complaint.

When will you be updated on the status of your complaint's investigation?

After a complaint is filed with the Bloomington Police Department, you should hear something back within a couple of weeks. If you do not, contact the police department at (309-820-8888) and ask for the Criminal Investigations Division. Explain that you made a report and would like to know the status of that report.

How do you add additional information to your existing IC3 complaint and police report?

You can update your complaint with IC3 by providing your previously assigned complaint number and password.

To add information to your existing police report, contact the assigned detective directly or the front desk of the police department at 309-820-8888. Your information will be taken and added to the report.