

Letter to the Editor
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Personal Information is a Valuable Commodity!

The revelation of the ID theft ring highlights the importance of being vigilant in protecting personal information and with the holiday season approaching, consumers will be quick to draw their credit cards to get into the holiday spirit. Once personal information is disclosed to obtain a “savers card” from the grocery store, to purchase goods over the Internet or at a store, or even to enter a holiday raffle drawing, the consumer loses control of who receives their personal information. The dawning of the information age and explosion of marketing and credit card companies has made an individual’s private information extremely valuable, and an individual’s control over how that information is shared is virtually nil. Personal information about individuals is bought, sold and traded or disclosed every five seconds!

Taking precautions against theft, limiting disclosure of personal information, finding out what kind of personal information is being disclosed and learning how to correct mistakes on credit reports are all burdens placed on the consumer. The Citizen Advocacy Center routinely facilitates free Privacy Rights Seminars and distributes a free series of educational brochures teaching people how to protect their privacy and protect themselves from identity theft. Call the Citizen Advocacy Center at 630-833-4080 for brochures or visit our website at www.citizenadvocacycenter.org to obtain free copies of “Protect Your Privacy” educational brochures.