

# What Is Utility-Related Identity Theft?

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## *Introduction*

You receive another utility or telephone bill in the mail. Wait! You already paid your bill and this is for an address or telephone number you don't even recognize. You may be the victim of utilities identity theft.

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*What should I do to repair the damage?* Acting quickly to limit the harm is critical.

If an identity thief opened a new account to get telephone, cable, electric, water, or other similar services in your name, do the following:

**Step 1:** Contact the service provider.

- Tell them someone stole your identity.
- Ask them to close the account.

**Step 2:** For additional help, contact your state Public Utility Commission and explain the situation.

- Maryland Public Service Commission
- Commonwealth of Virginia SCC
- Public Service Commission of D.C.

**Step 3:** For help with cell phone or telephone service, contact the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 or TTY 1-888-835-5322.

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## *Conclusion*

We have discussed utilities, medical, government issued ids, tax, criminal and financial identity theft, but there are still many other types of identity theft and you should remain vigilant. If you still feel you need help, consult a lawyer with experience on these matters.