



LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

Office of Student Financial Assistance

Referral and Reporting Fraud

Lamar University's Office of Student Financial Aid will report any suspected fraud or falsified information (on the part of the student, the parent, or preparer of financial aid applications or related parties) to the U. S. Department of Education and all other related parties for immediate action. It is important to provide accurate information in regards to financial aid. If Lamar University's Office of Student Financial Aid has reason to believe that a student or parent has purportedly misrepresented facts relevant to the student's financial aid application, or has committed forgery or fraud, the student will be contacted to meet with the Lamar University's Office of Student Financial Aid's Director, and Associate Director and/or Assistant Director to determine if misrepresentation was intentional. If it is determined that the student's intent was forgery or fraud, the information will be forwarded to the office of Inspector General in writing by the Director of Financial Aid.

Examples of such information include false claims of independent student status, false claims of citizenship, use of false identities, forgery of signatures or certificates, and false statements of income.

Financial Aid students that suspect fraud or abuse of financial aid funds can contact the U.S. Department of Education General's office to file a complaint. You can submit a complaint by email, telephone, or mail. The Office of Inspector General Accepts anonymous complaints.

To report student aid fraud (including identity theft), waste or abuse of U.S. Department of Education Funds:

1-800-MIS-USED (1-800-647-8733)

Email - oig.hotline@ed.gov

Website – <http://www.ed.gov/misused>

Reporting fraud to the Office of the Inspector General

1. Contact the Office of the Inspector General via email (oig.hotline@ed.gov). Provide your contact information or select the option to remain anonymous. Include identifying information and contact information on the violator. Complete a detailed description involving the circumstances surrounding your complaint.

2. Call the Office of the Inspector General Hotline. This number is 1-800-847-8733. Provide the representative with complete details surrounding your complaint. Include the contact information for the violator and a description of the incidents that occurred. When the operator asks for your personal information, you can elect to remain anonymous.
3. Submit your complaint via the web at:

www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/index.html

or via U.S. Postal mail at:

**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Inspector General Hotline
400 Maryland Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20202-1500**

(Your report can be made anonymously)

For questions, please call **1-800-MISUSED** (1-800-547-8733)*

The complaint form asks for your personal information, information on the violator, and a description of the details surrounding the complaint. Individuals who wish to remain anonymous can download the special complaint form that omits the questions for personal identifying information.

Identify Theft

What is Identify Theft?

When someone, without lawful authority, knowingly transfers or uses a “means of identification” of another person with the intent to commit, or aid or abet, any unlawful activity that violates Federal law or that constitutes a felony under any State or local law.

Avoiding Identity Theft

- Don’t carry your SSN card with you.
- Shred sensitive information.
- Only carry what you use.
- Photocopy all cards in your wallet.
- Select hard to guess pins and passwords.

- Don't leave mail sitting in an unprotected box.
- Don't give out private information over the phone.
- Order your credit reports.
- Use caution when providing ANY sensitive information.

What to do if you suspect identity theft

First, contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax – <http://www.equifax.com> – Phone: 1-800-525-6285
- Experian – <http://www.experian.com> - Phone: 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion – <http://www.transunion.com> - Phone: 1-800-680-7289

Second, close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Third, file a police report with your local police or the police in the community where the theft took place.

Other Resources

Social Security Administration, Fraud Hotline 1-800-269-0271

Federal Trade Commission 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338)

Opt-out line 1-888-567-8688

<http://www.fightidentitytheft.com>

<http://driverslicenseguide.com>