

Why is it so hard for victims of ID theft to get fraudulent debts discharged and what can you do about it?

In a White Paper entitled "The Top 5 On-Line Identity Theft Attacks," Amichal Schulman, Co-founder, CTO of Imperva, Inc. says . . . internet connected applications have played a central role in the growth of identity theft. International crime organizations, exploiting vulnerabilities in e-commerce, banking, healthcare, and human resource applications, have found that they can access back-end databases containing identity information. Then, the Internet provides them with a relatively anonymous medium to open new accounts and credit instruments, cell phone accounts, bank accounts, credit cards, auto loans, and short-term bank loans that can all be approved online without any requirement for physical proof-of-identity.

The crimes and the costs are adding up, but it's becoming increasingly difficult for victims to discharge these fraudulent debts. Why? It would seem that the "other" victim of the fraud is also fighting back. The "other" victim? The creditor, the bank, the credit card company, the commercial enterprise the thief ripped off in the first place. Unless somebody pays them, they will have to bear the loss themselves.

So it won't be easy, but the victim must gain the creditor's good will, must convince them that they are an innocent victim of a thief who has defrauded them both, and must prevail upon the creditor to accept the loss.

Victims, however, have competition for the good will of the creditor.

Creditors have another kind of perpetrator attempting to defraud them: the actual customer pretending to be a victim. The buyer who actually ran up the bills, got the goods, and now claims they were completely innocent, the victim of an identity thief.

Two ways that real victims of ID theft and fraud should use to persuade creditors to discharge the fraudulent debts against them. And one way if nothing else works.

1) At the outset, creditors have no way of knowing if you are truly a victim or a customer out to defraud them. You have to help them make that determination. How? Proof. Make your proof substantial, enough to convince the creditor that you are the victim of someone else's fraud and that, if they took their case against you to court, they would lose. Carefully listen when the creditor tells you what documentation they had in order to open the account because those things are what you will have to counteract and refute.

2) When you approach them, understand that they prefer **not** to become the "other" victim. Clearly, you are not to blame for this problem and it is not your fault, but that's not the point here. The point is that you need their help and cooperation but they already view you as an adversary. You simply cannot afford to alienate them further. If they choose to, they can throw rocks in your path every step of the way. So talk to them. Call them and ask for their help. Ask them what it is that THEY need from you.

Approach them in a calm, unemotional, business-like manner. But don't bury them in form letters and correspondence. Above all, don't throw demands at them, or legalese. And, if they DO let you off the hook, don't expect them to write confirmation letters; do that yourself. In short, do everything you can to take the burden off of them. Make it easy for them to be helpful to you.

2013 UPDATE on the 3 big Credit Reporting Companies: According to 60 Minutes article "[40 Million Mistakes](#)" Credit Reporting Agencies are not providing you with the same credit report they are providing to buyers. Neither are they investigating mistakes on your credit report nor correcting errors as required by the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Although you are provided with a website form to fill out, the corrections are not made. The report indicated that errors are reduced to a code number, returned to the creditor and evidently die there.

The advice given in one of the comments is to file suit in small claims court to force the creditor to remove fraudulent charges from your credit report. Not too expensive and it worked for them! Obviously they had the name and address of the creditor.

The creditors' name may not even show up on the report you are given. Their name and address is supposed to be provided to you by the Agency when you ask for an investigation, but current claims are that they are neither investigating nor providing any information.

If possible try to get the information you need from the person or company that refused you credit: card, rental, finance, utility, loan, insurance, etc. I suggest you **approach them with a copy of YOUR credit report in hand**. If their report shows something different, it's obvious something is very wrong here. If they still refuse to give you any information because of the privacy laws (and it's YOUR privacy they're supposedly protecting) contact your attorney for help/advice. Or, if you have a friend who regularly buys credit reports, ask if they can/will buy one of yours.

[CASE MANAGEMENT WORKBOOK](#) for Victims of ID theft and fraud

[JHWhite PubsCo](#)



"Embezzle" the fact-finding guide that will expose discrepancies in your accounting records and allow you to proceed on fact, not suspicion.

Most owners and managers are reluctant to accept embezzlement as a possibility because, if both their staff and their accounting is suspect, they believe there is no other solution than to hire their CPA to conduct an audit which will cost big bucks and may find nothing at all. That being the case reliable CPAs are reluctant to do an audit on the basis of suspicion alone. Owners and Managers then find themselves in a no-win situation, unable to go further,

"EMBEZZLE" is the solution! It's how you find the evidence, if there is any. EMBEZZLE" is not set up like an audit. It works from the inside, like a bookkeeper does. If there are discrepancies to be found, you'll have documentation: what it is, where it is. You'll be operating on fact, not suspicion.

With the instructions in "EMBEZZLE" you can easily do it yourself. If you need a little fine-tuning of your bookkeeping skills, consider **Bookkeeping Basics**. If you don't have the time or desire to follow "EMBEZZLE" yourself, hire someone to do it for you on a temporary/part-time basis. I suggest an outsider, a retired full-charge bookkeeper with years of experience, a high school education and a clean record

EMBEZZLE

- *How you are setting yourself up for embezzlement.
- *How your Financial Statements hide embezzlement.
- *19 Common embezzler tricks and how they work.
- *If you're not seeing evidence of embezzlement, why bother to look for it?
- *How to make sure you can access your records.
- *What to do **RIGHT NOW!**
- *What's so important about keeping your investigation secret?
- *What to do now to recover money later.
- *Exactly how to access bookkeeping accounts and find what you're looking for.
- *How to massage bookkeeping data in excel to reveal vital clues.
- *How to check the hard copy files for what IS and is NOT there.
- *If your suspicions are confirmed, what to do next, absolutely NOT do?
- *Other Risks.
- *Prevention **METHODS** that make embezzlement almost impossible.
- *How to Limit your exposure.

<http://www.aniota.com/~jwhite/bookkeeping/embezzlement0.html> \$10.00