

Identity Theft

329.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the investigation of identity theft.

329.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department to effectively investigate cases of identity theft.

329.3 ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

A report shall be taken any time a person residing within the jurisdiction of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department reports that he/she has been a victim of identity theft. This includes:

- (a) Taking a report even if the location of the crime is outside the jurisdiction of this department or has not been determined.
- (b) Providing the victim with department information, as set forth in the Victim and Witness Assistance Policy 318 and encourage the individual to review the material, and assist with any questions.

A report should also be taken if a person living outside the department jurisdiction reports an identity theft that may have been committed or facilitated within this jurisdiction (e.g., use of a post office box to facilitate the crime).

329.4 FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

Members of this department presented with the crime of identity theft shall prepare and file a report and provide a copy to the person making the report when (Md. Code CR § 8-304):

- (a) The person resides in any part of the jurisdiction of the UMBPD.
- (b) The crime occurred in any part of the jurisdiction of the UMBPD.

A member investigating a case of identity theft should ensure that each case is referred to the appropriate agency if it is determined that this department should not be the investigating agency (e.g., an identity theft ring working from out of state). The victim should be advised that the case is being transferred to the agency of jurisdiction for investigation. The investigating member should also ensure that appropriate entries are made into related databases that have been authorized for department use.

329.5 MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

- (a) The Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division is a resource for identity theft victims.
- (b) Under Maryland statute, the Attorney General provides an Identity Theft Passport to victims, if they have obtained a police report.

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1. The passport is designed to verify the identity of the victim should they be stopped by law enforcement.
2. Applications for the passport can be obtained from the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

329.5.1 ACCEPTANCE OF IDENTITY THEFT PASSPORT

Officers have discretion whether to accept or reject an identity theft passport that an individual presents to help prevent his/her arrest or detention when another person has committed an offense and used the individual's personal identifying information. In determining whether to accept or reject an identity theft passport presented to this department, the officer may consider the surrounding circumstances and available information regarding the offense of identity fraud against the person (Md. Code CR § 8-305(f)).

329.6 TRAINING

The Education and Training Section shall ensure periodic training (e.g., roll-call, in-service, etc.) on identity theft is provided to sworn members of the UMBPD.