

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2006

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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STRENGTHENING FEDERAL EFFORTS  
TO PROTECT AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to strengthen efforts to protect against identity theft, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to use Federal resources effectively to deter, prevent, detect, investigate, proceed against, and prosecute unlawful use by persons of the identifying information of other persons, including through:

(a) increased aggressive law enforcement actions designed to prevent, investigate, and prosecute identity theft crimes, recover the proceeds of such crimes, and ensure just and effective punishment of those who perpetrate identity theft;

(b) improved public outreach by the Federal Government to better (i) educate the public about identity theft and protective measures against identity theft, and (ii) address how the private sector can take appropriate steps to protect personal data and educate the public about identity theft; and

(c) increased safeguards that Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities can implement to better secure government-held personal data.

Sec. 2. Establishment of the Identity Theft Task Force.

(a) There is hereby established the Identity Theft Task Force.

(b) The Task Force shall consist exclusively of:

(i) the Attorney General, who shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force;

(ii) the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, who shall serve as Co-Chairman of the Task Force;

- (iii) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (iv) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (v) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (vi) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (vii) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (viii) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (ix) the Commissioner of Social Security;
- (x) the following officers of the United States:
  - (A) the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;
  - (B) the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
  - (C) the Comptroller of the Currency;
  - (D) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision;
  - (E) the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration Board; and
  - (F) the Postmaster General; and
- (xi) such other officers of the United States as the Attorney General may designate from time to time, with the concurrence of the respective heads of departments and agencies concerned.

(c) The Chairman and Co-Chairman shall convene and preside at the meetings of the Task Force, determine its agenda, direct its work and, as appropriate, establish and direct subgroups of the Task Force that shall consist exclusively of members of the Task Force. Such subgroups may address particular subject matters, such as criminal law enforcement or private sector education and outreach. The Chairman and Co-Chairman may also designate, with the concurrence of the head of department, agency, or instrumentality of which



