

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Don't let **Holiday Season** be time to lose your Identity

Glendale, Ariz. – The Glendale Police Department would like to remind everyone to be alert, patient, and mindful of safety during the quickly approaching holiday shopping season, which kicks off soon with many retailers. The holidays can be a stressful and busy time. It can also be the worst time to have your identity stolen. Let us offer some crime prevention tips to help keep the holidays safe and enjoyable for you and your entire family!

Holiday Safety Tips

- Lock packages and other valuables in the trunk before you park, never after you park.
- Don't leave your purse or wallet inside the vehicle.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you must shop in the evening, shop with a friend.
- If possible, shop in groups of two or more.
- If you are contacted as a "secret shopper" never deposit a check or money order into your account. It will deduct from your account if it is found to be fraudulent.
- Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry large sums of cash.

- Carry purses next to your body with the purse flap against you. Carry wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Know what time your mail usually arrives and have plans to get it as quickly as possible.
- Know when packages are arriving at your home.
- Be careful when doing on-line shopping and try to use reputable businesses.
- Never give out personal information or credit card information over the phone.
- Safeguard your social security number.
- Try to memorize pin numbers and passwords. Do not write them down and leave them in your wallet or purse.
- Remember, no one ever had their identity stolen by using cash.
- Identity thieves will call pretending to be lottery, inheritance, and IRS. Beware! Do not send money to get money.
- If you are a victim of a crime, call **911** to report it to the police immediately.

We at the Glendale Police Department wish you a safe and wonderful holiday season!

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**Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*