



**HOLDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
ALERT: ONLINE JOB POSTINGS
02/26/2010**

Criminals will do anything to obtain your personal information. In a recent case, a young recent graduate was looking for a job, like many Americans now. He saw a posting on a website that provides classifieds. This website and many like it have limited security and no checks or verifications which will allow anyone, anywhere to post anything they want. He responded indicating he was interested in the job opportunity and received an email asking him to fill out the application so the interview process could be started. The application asked for all of his personal information, along with other information an application normally has. He emailed it on to the company's representative who had a "free" email account (not a business email). Shortly thereafter he realized it was a scam and he had given the thieves everything they needed to take over his identity.

Luckily, he realized what he had done and notified the credit bureaus and the National White Collar Crime Center which started the process of freezing his credit so the thieves can not use his identity.

With many Americans are looking for jobs, be careful when responding to job advertisements. Before you send off your personal information, take a minute to check out the company. If this young man did a quick search of the company online he would have realized it was a scam before he sent them his personal information.

Most legitimate businesses will only request your resume before the interview. They do not need your date of birth or social security number until you are hired. Companies can not ask your age (thus your date of birth) in the pre-interview stage (age discrimination) nor do they need your social security number at this stage. Once a job offer is made they may need your personal information but hopefully by then you have had a formal interview and have done your research on the company.

Remember: Never give you your personal information to someone you do not know. If they ask for it, ask them what they need it for.