Preventing Business Identity Theft

Take the following steps to protect your business from business identity theft:

--Periodically check your business information on the Nebraska secretary of state’s website at www.sos.ne.gov.

--Monitor credit reports and sign up for a credit monitoring service.

--Monitor business accounts, bills and credit card statements and reconcile your statements on a regular basis.

--Do not provide your employer identification number (EIN), account numbers and other confidential information unless you have initiated the contact and have confirmed the identity of the requesting business or person.

--Store only those documents you must keep and keep them in a safe and secure location. Shred old or unnecessary documents that contain your business information.

--Ensure that your computers are secure and train employees to avoid phishing scams and emails that may contain malicious viruses.

If you believe your business is a victim of business identity theft, you should immediately take the following steps:

--Notify local and/or state law enforcement officials.

--Contact banks, credit-card providers and other creditors to notify them of the fraud.

--Report the crime to credit reporting agencies (e.g. Dun & Bradstreet, Equifax, Experian, TransUnion) and view your business credit report. The credit bureaus can put a “fraud alert” on your file that will tell creditors to contact you before opening accounts in your name.

--Request copies of documentation used to fraudulently open or access accounts.