

# Recent Identity Thefts from Automotive Dealerships

## Alabama

### **Huntsville Police Nab Suspected Identity Theft Artist**

Investigators say he stole identities of at least 60 people and stole at least \$600,000 worth of merchandise. The suspect was a salesman at a BMW dealership in Birmingham.

## Arizona

### **Arizona Felon Gives Car Salespeople a Bad Rep**

A felon-turned-car salesman in Arizona probably isn't doing much for the car salesperson image after being accused of stealing the identities of 121 customers. The former salesman has 17 prior felony convictions and served more than three years in state prison.

### **Five Tucsonans accused of identity theft, bank fraud**

Five Tucson individuals face up to 30 years behind bars after being indicted on multiple charges involving identity theft and bank fraud. A 30-count indictment was unsealed on September 20, in which three former employees of an Arizona Honda dealership are accused of theft of personal identifying information of individuals

## California

### **Car Dealerships Prime Target for Identity Thieves**

The thieves who struck a dealership in suburban San Francisco in April ignored the dealership's cash and costly equipment. But they hit the jackpot anyway. They reached into an unlocked cabinet and stole 57 files of customer transactions. The files included credit reports, bank statements, driver's license numbers, credit card information and Social Security numbers.

### **Identity Theft Ring Busted at New Car Dealership**

Workers at a Nissan dealership in the Los Angeles area may have stolen the identities of thousands of customers. The investigation began after police received numerous complaints from customers about their identities being stolen.

### **DMV Arrests Former Auto Dealers Linked to Sales Loan Scheme**

DMV investigators were part of a United States Marshall's Office Fugitive Task Force which arrested two suspects of Pasadena, on multiple counts of grand theft, identity theft, false financial statements and dissuading a witness by force. A former owner of the defunct Downey Motorcars and South Gate Motors and his wife were arrested on February 12th.

## Florida

### **ID Thieves Hit Car Dealer in New Scam**

CBS4 News has learned that a criminal is probe underway into what happened at a Miami Groves automotive group, after a woman walked in off the street and took off with a box of sensitive customer data. While another woman was engaged in conversation with sales personnel, the suspect made her way to a back office and grabbed a box containing the sensitive financial data of dozens of customers.

### **Car Dealerships Prime Target for Identity Thieves**

One of the largest auto retailers endured a recent alleged incident of identity theft at one of its dealerships in Florida. The ex-employee allegedly tapped dealership records, providing financial data that enabled other members of the ring to make illegal purchases with false documents.

#### **Man Admits Supplying Customers' Personal Data to ID Theft Ring**

The employee worked as a sales manager at a large dealership in Plantation until September 2008. He sold information from roughly 75 customers, including their names, addresses and Social Security numbers, to another man for \$9,000, federal prosecutors said.

#### **Traffic Stop Ends In ID Theft Investigation**

A woman working at a local car dealership is accused of trying to steal the identities of customers. Authorities said more than 200 customers of a Sanford dealership could have been targeted. Police claimed Smith used her job at the dealership to steal identities.

#### **Tallahassee, Fla., Car Salesman Arrested in Identity Theft, Mercedes Purchase**

The identity theft led to the arrest of a former salesman for a local dealership.

#### **Car salesman stole 33 identities**

The salesman is charged with grand theft and fraudulent use of personal information. Police say he took more than 30 customers' identities when he worked at a local dealership.

#### **Huge ID Theft Bust Allegedly Involved Car Salesman**

Investigators are calling it one of the biggest cases of identity theft in Central Florida history with at least 60 victims. The scam, investigators say, was scary because of how it was pulled off. In many cases, a car salesman at the Winter Park dealership, they claim, would photocopy the driver's licenses of customers that went for test drives.

#### **Car Salesmen Accused Of Stealing Customer IDs**

Investigators said the salesman learned how to steal identities from another employee when they both worked at the dealership in Kissimmee. "(There was) enough information, in the Expedition and at his home, for him to steal as many as 52 identities."

#### **Boynton police disrupt ID theft ring**

Police believe the stolen identities were likely provided by people working at up to three car dealerships who took credit applications in the Ft. Lauderdale area.

### **Illinois**

#### **Auto Dealership Worker Charged With ID Theft**

An employee of a Hoffman Estates car dealership has been charged with stealing the identity of a customer and using it to buy a car at another dealership, authorities said.

### **Indiana**

#### **Car Salesman Involved in Identity Theft**

Thomas Phillips went to the Indianapolis dealership on the east side four weeks ago to buy a new truck. That's when he met the car salesman. Detectives accuse the salesman and his girlfriend of using customer's information to open numerous credit card accounts

### **Louisiana**

### **Identity Theft Allegedly Takes Place at Local Nissan Dealership**

A man and his sister-in-law coincidentally bought their brand new cars two days apart from the same dealership in Metairie. The man discovered last week that someone opened up seven credit card accounts totaling nearly \$12,000 in merchandise using his social security number. The dealer told them the alleged suspect worked at the dealership for one week in January.

## **Massachusetts**

### **Thousands Affected in Dealership Data Theft**

Personal information from thousands of people in New Hampshire and Massachusetts has been compromised after a data backup tape from a dealership was stolen this summer. "I believe it was more than 10,000." Customers who purchased vehicles and those who had their vehicles serviced at the dealerships are affected.

### **New Bedford Man, Nephew Indicted On Identity Theft Charges**

Investigators discovered that in February 2007, while working at a local car dealership in Somerset, the employee allegedly stole motor vehicle sale contracts from the dealership and gave those contracts to his uncle.

## **Missouri**

### **Two More Sentenced in ID Theft of 116 Victims**

A former employee of a local dealership stole credit bureau reports obtained by the car dealership in connection with the financing of automobile sales, and then sold them to an accomplice. Evidence presented during the trial indicates that 40 victims (who had been customers of the dealership) suffered a total loss of more than \$67,837 as a result of the first conspiracy.

## **Nebraska**

### **Car Salesman Charged With Stealing Customers' Identities**

"Apparently he has a cache somewhere of information that, whenever he sold someone a car, that he's kept their name, address, phone number, Social Security number and he's been carrying it with him all these years,"

## **New Jersey**

### **Car Salesman Charged With Stealing Client's Identity**

A car salesman has been charged with stealing a customer's credit card number and her identity to obtain a duplicate credit card in his name, police said Thursday. A salesman at a South Brunswick dealership, was arrested at the dealership Wednesday.

## **New York**

### **Car Dealerships, Employees Stole Customer IDs**

"Through a multi-agency investigation, today we have crushed the fraud, the financial mismanagement, the identity theft and the outright stealing that have been commonplace at these two auto dealerships." Two former employees have been arrested, along with three employees of nearby dealership in Lawrence.

## **North Carolina**

### **Man Charged with Identity Theft Gets 57-month Prison Term**

The employee was a salesman for the dealership in Mooresville. He obtained other persons' identification information — including their name, date of birth and Social Security number.

## **Oregon**

### **Local Car Dealership Warns About Identity Theft Risk**

The residents of Vancouver said they received a letter from the dealership in Portland reporting a possible security breach. The letter said as many as 16,000 people could be affected and stated how the company is trying to help.

### **Two Oregon men get prison for identity theft operation**

He acted as the "converter" in the operation. He gathered identity information from stolen mail brought to him by others and from other sources - including credit applications by car buyers at a dealership where he once worked as a salesman.

## **Pennsylvania**

### **Money on the Way to Marchese Victims**

"A federal court judge has approved a \$2.45 million settlement against a former Limerick (PA) auto dealer accused of identity theft. He was accused of fraud and damaging credit reports and had been sentenced to 4 years in prison.

## **Texas**

### **Car Buyers May Be Identity Theft Victims**

Police said they discovered 7,000 to 8,000 sales contracts when they raided the house in southwest Houston. Two men were arrested. The files are sales contracts from a Houston dealership.

### **Woman Buys Car, Loses Identity**

After we contacted the dealership about the woman's case, its attorneys sent this statement: "The dealership did not disclose any information that has led to Ms. Coleman's identity theft. Since it has been brought to the dealership's attention that a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt was not purchased by her, but was purchased as a result of identity theft, the dealership is taking all necessary steps with the financing institution to ensure that her credit is restored."