

Media Release
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Charlotte, NC

Does your signature increase your chances of ID Theft?

Thomas Grogan is a forensic handwriting expert based in Charlotte, NC. He states, “In light of the fact that **ID theft is the #1 growing crime today** according to the National Crime Prevention Council, it is important for people to take steps to ‘forgery proof’ their signatures.” Thomas; in association with NBC6 News' personal safety expert Dan Starks; teaches workshops based on two years of research and many more years of experience that demonstrates how to combat someone stealing your identity via a forged signature. “I basically instruct people proactive measures to form their signatures in a way to reduce the chances of it being forged or copied and what action to take if it is,” says Grogan.

Is your signature easy to forge? The answer is YES if:

- You over-simplify it.
- You have a low skill level.
- You write very slowly.
- You adhere closely to the rules of penmanship.
- You have more natural variation in your signature.
- Your signature is legible.

Are you a victim of identity theft through forgery?

- Report the crime to the police immediately; get a copy of the police report.
- Keep a record of the steps you take and expenses you incur to clear your name.
- Cancel all credit cards, get new ones issued.
- Hire a Forensic Document Examiner to examine the questioned documents and issue a notarized letter of opinion. Attach this letter to all outgoing letters to financial institutions and investigators.
- Send a letter to all three credit card bureaus asking them to note on your file you are a victim of identity theft. File a fraud alert with all credit reporting agencies.
- Close bank accounts and open new ones. Get new bank ATM cards. Change your PIN codes.
- Monitor your credit report at least every 6 months.

Barbara Anthony, director of the Federal Trade Commission's Northeast Region, estimated that identity theft has victimized about 27 million people and cost businesses about \$48 billion in losses. From the

January 14, 2005 edition of USA TODAY, "About 7 million people had their identities stolen in the year ended July 2003, according to two studies done by Gartner Research and Harris Interactive."

Thomas Grogan is available for interview either in person or by phone.

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To Book, Call Thomas Grogan at 704-726-1396 available nationwide

Resources:

Thomas Grogan's website: www.thomasgroganfde.com

Credit Repair: www.credit-report-repair.com

Free Annual Credit Reports: www.annualcreditreport.com

National Crime Prevention Council: www.ncpc.org

About Thomas Grogan:

Thomas Grogan is a forensic document examiner and handwriting expert. He is the president and chief examiner of Forensic Document Laboratory, Inc. Mr. Grogan has worked in handwriting since 1997 and has served an apprenticeship under renowned handwriting expert Don Lehew (who has appeared numerous times on the Nancy Grace Show on CNN Headline News and Court TV). Thomas deals with cases involving questioned and disputed documents, medical and insurance fraud, anonymous letters, handwriting and typewriter identification, ink analysis and latent fingerprint detection.

He teaches monthly seminars on Identity Theft and it's relation to forgery. Mr. Grogan also works in close association with Dan Starks from NBC6's "Don't Be a Victim" and "Partners Against Crime" segments and Starks Training Institute Inc. Thomas is also an independent instructor with Forensics 101 Inc, a science education initiative that offers a wide selection of individual workshops and group programs for schools, daycares, libraries, church groups, home school groups, community youth groups, festivals, community events, and more.

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