



## THIS MONTH'S TOPIC...

## It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is.

Notes from our Chairman, Adam K. Levin

As 2008 draws near, it is imperative we take stock in our progress in the war against identity theft.

The Federal response has been less than stellar, thus state legislators have begun to aggressively fill the void. Unfortunately, due to inconsistent and inaccurate reporting and a basic misunderstanding of the crime, identity theft has often been classified as "fraud" and not always treated as a distinct category. Though 39 states and Washington, DC have developed relatively similar laws enabling consumers to "freeze" their credit profiles, prosecutors have been forced to rely upon a patchwork of laws to prosecute identity thieves with varying degrees of success.

The regulatory landscape continues to evolve, but one truth is immutable: a fundamental awareness of one's rights and the laws that protect them is central to containing and ultimately defeating identity theft. To that end, we offer a jurisdictional snapshot of security freeze and identity theft/fraud laws around the nation.

May you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

For a complete newsletter archive, visit: [www.identitytheft911.org/newsletters](http://www.identitytheft911.org/newsletters)

To learn about the latest scams on identity theft, visit: [www.identitytheft911.org](http://www.identitytheft911.org)

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# IDENTITY THEFT LAWS BY STATE

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