



STUDENT ADVOCATES  
FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION

## SECURITY FREEZE

### FINANCIAL TIP OF THE WEEK

Did you know?



What does it do?

- A security freeze is the most efficient way to prevent identity theft
- Effective July 1, 2007, Montana consumers can put a security freeze on their credit files in 5 business days from receipt of request
- Fees: Free for victims of ID theft or Minors - \$3 to each credit bureau for all other Montanans (\$18 per married couple)

*Freeze out the crooks!  
Keep your money liquid!  
In your control!*



#### A security freeze will not:

- Lower your credit score
- Keep you from getting your own credit report
- Prevent pre-approved credit offers

#### Your PIN will lift your freeze for:

- Employer background checks
- Applications from you for new credit
- Landlord background checks

- Prevents a thief from using your credit to borrow money, get a credit card, and create a false identity, using your social security number
- Can be easily lifted 3 business days after receipt, to apply for a credit card, borrow money, or make a major purchase such as a car or home
- Costs an additional \$3 per person from each bureau to be temporarily lifted

For more **financial information**, contact the \$AFE office at (406) 994-7223 or e-mail [safe@montana.edu](mailto:safe@montana.edu). \$AFE is a project funded by Montana State University and a grant from the Student Assistance Foundation.

Source: Retrieved online 10/05/2007 from the Montana Department of Justice Consumer Protection. <http://www.doj.mt.gov/consumer/consumer/securityfreeze.asp#usingsecurityfreeze>

