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INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC.

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Merchants' Product Can Help Protect Victims of Incidents Like VA Computer Theft

Company Provides Full Identity Theft Recovery Solutions

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (date, 2006) — It was an alarming breach that could affect almost 1 in 10 Americans.

The Veterans Administration announced a few days ago that an employee's laptop computer was stolen containing the personal information including social security numbers of 26.5 million people, information that could be used to commit identity theft. So how can these people protect themselves from identity theft, and what should they be watching for?

Phoenix-based company Merchants Information Solutions has a product that can help. Merchants is one of the leaders in the field of providing identity theft recovery services, including restoring the credit and financial status of consumers affected by identity theft.

These services are provided through Merchants Credit Care®, the company's fully managed identity theft recovery service.

With Merchants Credit Care, key credit and financial information is checked and monitored to identify potential problems. And if identity theft occurs, clients have the ability to completely turn over the burden of identity theft recovery to a professional caseworker, who will perform the research, documentation, and follow-up that is required to completely restore the individual's credit and credibility.

"The case of the VA employee's laptop is certainly an alarming one, with millions of people put at risk of becoming victims of identity theft," said Mark Pribish, Director of Identity Theft Management Services for Merchants Information Solutions. "But the circumstances are not unusual. Identity thieves can find a number of different ways to get a hold of key personal information and turn that information into the tools they need to commit theft and fraud.

"That's why we developed Merchants Credit Care," Pribish continued. "It is designed to combine a variety of resources to help those at risk or victims of identity theft get their lives back to normal, without having to take on the work and responsibility themselves."

According to Pribish "the Federal Trade Commission has reported that 49 percent of ID Theft related events include a financial instrument (i.e. credit/debit card, checking/savings account or loan). This means 51 percent of ID Theft related events



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are non-financial.” Merchants Credit Care will respond to both financial and non-financial (including Medical, Drivers License, Employee/Student ID, Utility/Phone, etc) ID Theft related events.

Merchants Credit Care is a one-of-a-kind service designed to comprehensively manage the process of recovering from identity theft, and return the victim’s identity to pre-event status. In addition to managed recovery Merchants Credit Care identity theft membership service also provides access to credit reports, credit monitoring & alerts as well as ID-theft related expense reimbursement for individuals and families.

Merchants Credit Care is available to individuals affected by identity theft, companies who wish to offer the option of such services to employees as an employee benefit, associations or financial institutions who wish to offer the service to members and retailers who wish to offer the service to customers. MIS is the first company in Arizona to offer a fully managed identity theft recovery service.

About Merchants Information Solutions

Phoenix-based Merchants Information Solutions, Inc (MIS) has been in business since 1912, and is a privately held Phoenix-based company with over 2,600 business clients. MIS is a nationally recognized consumer and business credit information company focused on corporate risk reduction. The company provides consumer, business, and mortgage credit information, employment, resident, background screening services, identity theft management solutions, and full-service collections services. For details, please visit www.merchantsinfo.com or call 602-744-3700.