



# Red Flags Rule

An Introduction

County College of Morris

# What is the Red Flags Rule?

- Requires implementation of a written Identity Theft Prevention Program designed to
  - detect the warning signs – “red flags” – of identity theft in day-to-day operations,
  - take steps to prevent the crime, and
  - mitigate the damage it inflicts
- Enforced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

# How have we responded at CCM?

- The Board of Trustees approved policy 2.2018 “*Identity Theft Prevention Program*” on November 17, 2010.
- A document “*Measures for Identity Theft Prevention*” has been developed.
- Training program has been developed and is being made available beginning March 2011.

# Related Definitions

- “Identity theft” – fraud committed or attempted using the identifying information of another person without authority.
- “Red flag” – a pattern, practice, or specific activity that indicates the possible existence of identity theft.
- “Covered account”
  - An account that the college offers or maintains that involves or is designed to permit multiple payments or transactions for students, faculty, and/or staff
  - Any other account or database that the college offers or maintains for which there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of identity theft to its students, faculty, staff, constituents or customers.
- “Identifying information” – any name or number that may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific person.
- “Service Provider” – a person or business entity that provides a service directly to the College.

# What is required?

- IDENTIFY – Identify relevant red flags
- DETECT – Detect red flags
- RESPOND – Prevent and mitigate identity theft
- REPORT – Report attempts of identity theft
- REVIEW – Monitor and update compliance

# Indicators to **IDENTIFY** Red Flags

- Notifications and warnings from third-party agencies (e.g. credit agency, law enforcement)
- Suspicious documents (e.g. apparent forgeries, altered documents, physical description or photo does not match person presenting documentation)
- Suspicious identification (e.g. inconsistent statements such as birth dates)
- Unusual use of account (e.g. sudden change in password or mailing address, returned mail, breach in computer security)

# How to **DETECT** Red Flags

- Require identifying information before providing access to records online, over the phone, or in person.
- Verify identity of student/ employee in person when possible.
- Verify significant changes in a student/ employee account with the account holder.
- If any of the identifying information appears suspicious you may have detected a red flag.

# How to **RESPOND** to Red Flags

- Once detected, take one or more of the following steps depending upon the severity in order to prevent and mitigate identity theft:
  - Alert your supervisor and coordinate a response/notification to the appropriate department of origin for the record/ account.
  - Contact the individual (student, applicant, employee, donor, etc).
  - Change any passwords, security codes or other security devices that permit/prohibit access to the account.
  - Do not open a new account for the individual until the red flag has been cleared.
  - Continue to monitor the account for evidence of identity theft.
  - Determine no response is warranted under the particular circumstance.



# How to **RESPOND** to Red Flags

(continued)

- IN ALL CASES notify one of the following officials in writing (and copy Program Administrator – Director of Budget and Compliance):
  - Registrar – for student account issues
  - Bursar – for student financial account issues
  - Director of Admissions – for admission issues
  - Director of Financial Aid – for student financial aid issues

# How to **RESPOND** to Red Flags

(continued)

- IN ALL CASES notify one of the following officials in writing (and copy Program Administrator – Director of Budget and Compliance):
  - Executive Director of Information Systems – for college data issues
  - Director of Human Resources – for employee account issues
  - Executive Director for Advancement & Planning – for donor related issues
  - Vice President for Business & Finance – for vendor and other customer related issues

# How to **REPORT** incidents if identity theft

- Manager/director of the office for which the discovery was made shall complete and submit to the Program Administrator the *Identity Theft Detection* form.

# REVIEW Your Current Procedures/ Practices

- Secure documents that contain identifying or protected information.
- Avoid the use of social security number as an identifier and limit access to Social Security numbers to employees approved by the Program Administrator.
- Ensure that your departmental website, or related portal, is secure through consultation with the Information Systems Department.
- Follow college policies and procedures for data security.
- Ensure complete and secure destruction of documents and computer files containing account information in accordance with the college's record retention policies and procedures.
- Ensure that all college systems and computers are password protected and virus definitions and protections are up-to-date.

# REVIEW Your Current Procedures/ Practices

(continued)

- Sensitive data should not be distributed via email or stored on external drives (USB, Thumb, Flash, etc.).
- Sensitive data stored on portable computing devices and storage media must be encrypted.
- Personally owned drives and devices should never be used to store sensitive institutional data.
- Require and keep only information that is necessary for your business purpose.
- Share this information with employees new to your department and third-party service providers.

*The protection of student/ employee information  
is the job of every employee at  
The County College of Morris.*

*These procedures set the minimum requirements  
for an effective college response.*

*Departments are encouraged to adopt more  
specific rules/ procedures/ protections to  
assist in the implementation of these  
measures.*

# *Questions*

