

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced she has signed broad-based legislation that increases criminal penalties for identity theft and sets up a fund from forfeited assets to help individuals whose identity has been stolen. The legislation makes numerous changes in existing laws relating to identity theft, misuse of Social Security Numbers or other personal identifying information. The law also includes tougher penalties for those convicted of victimizing senior citizens. A suspect now faces first-degree identity theft charges – a class B felony – for victimizing anyone older than 60 and stealing assets and valuables over \$5,000. The law lowers the theft threshold for a first-degree offense from \$10,000.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?A=3675&q=443282> .