



## SAFEGUARDING CONSUMERS MAIL THEFT

### LEGISLATION

The Attorney General's Law Enforcement Group Against Identity Theft (LEGIT) Task Force recommends new legislation to define mail theft and possession of stolen mail as Class C felonies.

### THE PROBLEM

Stolen mail is often a thief's first step to worse crimes, including financial fraud and identity theft. For law enforcement in our state to continue to combat this epidemic, they need laws that treat mail theft as the serious offense it has become.

### BACKGROUND

Mail theft is a key source of financial, medical and other personal information for identity thieves. In the last year, U.S. Postal Inspectors have arrested more than 6,000 mail theft suspects nationwide. However, the problem continues to grow. Washington laws do not distinguish between mail theft and other misdemeanor thefts.