

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### US Not Prepared to Handle Nation's Largest Crime

*National Crime Victims Rights' Week Reveals Nation Needs More Support for Victims of ID Theft*

Chaska, MN, April 24, 2009 – As the US closes the celebration of National Crime Victims Rights' Week (NCVRRW: April 26 – May 2) and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act, it is evident that the Nation is ill prepared to handle the largest and fastest growing crime – personal identity theft. “There were nearly 10 Million victims of Identity Theft in 2008, up 22%, and that number is expected to grow in 2009,” stated Dianne Cutter, CEO/President of Asurency, a Global ID Protection service provider. “People continue to label Identity Theft as a victimless crime. Trust me, victims of ID Theft feel physical and emotional trauma for years, just like other crime Victims, yet they are left to fend for themselves to recover their most prized asset – their good name.”

The combination of the current economic downturn and the Nation's increased dependencies and use of technology has bred a criminal group that not only continuously grows but also continuously evolves. The common belief is not “if” your identity will be stolen but “when” will it happen. “A Victim spends an average of 200 or more hours recovering their identity. This is time spent away from work, family and loved ones. And the recovery process can take years which affects loans, job searches, credit and, most importantly, a person's health due to stress and anxiety,” stated Cutter, “unfortunately Victims usually go through the recovery process feeling alone and helpless.”

2008 US Identity Theft facts are staggering:

- An Identity is **stolen every 3 seconds – 1 in 23 Adults are victims**
- Identity Theft Victims **lost \$48 Billion**

“What Americans need to know is that they can minimize the risk of this crime through education and awareness. We provide tips and resources on Asurency.com about ID Theft. However, there is no guaranteed prevention. Which is why Asurency provides experts, in the event a person's Identity is stolen, that will handle all aspects of the recovery process. And our experts contact victims weekly with updates on recovery progress. We understand the stress and anxiety of ID Theft so we make the recovery process as painless and expedient as possible,” added Cutter.

ID Theft Facts: <http://www.asurency.com/why/id-theft-facts.php>

ID Theft Tips: <http://www.asurency.com/identity-truths/identity-theft-protection.php>

Asurency offers the most comprehensive identity theft services in the industry coupled with the exclusive Personal Records Vault. Asurency is “The Leader in Global Identity Protection” and is supported by Europ Assistance, a worldwide Identity Resolution Service leader since 1982 with over 17 Million members, 36 call/support centers and offices in over 200 countries. Learn more at [Asurency.com](http://Asurency.com).