The federal government has unveiled a new website, www.idtheft.gov, designed to provide step-by-step instructions for what people should do if they believe they are victims of identity theft. In addition to general advice, the website describes the steps that victims should take in specific situations – for instance, if their Social Security numbers have been misused or if identity thieves have fraudulently accessed their bank accounts.

There are sample letters that victims can use to notify creditors, credit bureaus, debt collectors and others as needed. The website also provides information about victims’ rights and how to recognize the warning signs of identity theft.

For the Spanish-language version of the site, go to www.robodeidentidad.gov.