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TX AG Sues Life Time Fitness For ID Theft Exposure

(CBS 11 News) COLLIN COUNTY The Texas Attorney General is taking legal action against Life Time Fitness Centers, claiming the company exposed its customers to identity theft.

Minnesota-based Life Time Fitness and its subsidiaries, LTF Club Management Company, L.L.C. and LTF Club Operations Company, Inc., are accused of violating the law by repeatedly failing to protect customer records that contain sensitive personal information.

Investigators with the Office of the Attorney General discovered that several North Texas Life Time Fitness facilities exposed customers' personal identifying information by discarding customer records in easily accessible trash cans behind the stores.

A Plano location is where investigators found Brian Lankford's personal information in the dumpster. "This is an unacceptable behavior. It should not be tolerated and it will not be tolerated," Lankford said.

The attorney General alleges that during the months of April, May, and June of 2007, more than 100 of defendants' business records containing the personal identifying information and sensitive personal information of its customers were found in publicly accessible trash dumpsters adjacent to Life Time Fitness Centers in Texas, including Plano, Allen, Flower Mound, Colleyville, Dallas and Garland.

Investigators say the discarded information included - names, addresses, Social Security and driver's license numbers, and credit and debit card information.

Wednesday afternoon Life Time Fitness issued a statement that said, in part, - **"As a matter of policy, we do not comment on pending litigation, however we intend to work with the Texas Attorney General's Office to ensure that our members' sensitive personal information is properly protected."**

"Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States," Attorney General Greg Abbott said. "Texans expect their personal information to remain confidential. The Office of the Attorney General will take all necessary steps to protect consumers from identity thieves."

State officials are The Office of the Attorney General is investigating whether any exposed data has been used illegally. Consumers who interacted with Life Time Fitness facilities should carefully monitor bank, credit card and any similar statements for evidence of suspicious activity. Customers should also obtain free copies of their credit reports.

Consumers who wish to file a complaint may contact the Office of the Attorney General at (800) 252-8011 or do so online at www.oag.state.tx.us (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us>), where they can also obtain information on identity theft detection and prevention.

Under the law, the Office of the Attorney General has the authority to seek penalties of up to \$25,000 per violation of the DTPA and \$50,000 per violation of the Identity Theft Enforcement and Protection Act.

In Texas, Life Time Fitness owns and operates 11 separate health spas in eight different counties, and is in the process of constructing three new health spas.

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"Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States." - Greg Abbott, Texas Attorney General



Photo of one Life Time Fitness dumpster where documents were found

Texas Attorney General



Lifetime Fitness

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