



# ELECTRONIC PAYMENT CARDS PROTECT YOU



**Major electronic payment networks, like Mastercard and others, are focused on protecting your money and identity. Many have zero-liability for any fraudulent charges made on your payment card. At the same time, there are some simple things you can do to ensure your money and identity are protected.**

## **Online: Be very cautious about emails and questionable websites asking for disclosure of sensitive financial information.**

- Make use of general computer protections, firewalls and software that can help guard against viruses.
- Turn off computers when not in use to reduce risks of hacking and intrusion.
- Banks and legitimate businesses will never email customers asking for passwords or information updates.
- Don't click on links from suspicious emails. The same is true for scanning QR codes with a smartphone.
- Change passwords and PINs periodically.
- Don't conduct financial transactions over public WiFi or internet connections that are not protected by a password.
- Make sure purchases via any websites have a security icon displayed in the corner — a "closed lock" or "unbroken key."

## **Never leave cards or PINs in sight.**

- Choose a PIN that isn't obvious to others and never write it on or near a card.
- Make sure no one is watching when entering a PIN.
- Don't throw away ATM and card purchase receipts in a public place.
- Keep an eye on your card during transactions and get it back as quickly as possible.
- Use improved technologies like contactless payments or mobile phone applications to use your payment card accounts without putting physical cards in the possession of someone else.

## **Guard account numbers, review statements. There are greater levels of fraud protection if problems are reported as soon as suspected.**

- If someone calls or emails saying they need personal or account information, call your bank directly, using the phone number on the back of your card.
- Don't lend your cards to anyone.
- Notify card companies before you move or travel out of the country.
- Call card issuers and report a problem as soon as it is discovered.
- Never give card information to unsolicited callers.
- Get a copy of credit reports and check for problems. The three credit bureaus (EQUIFAX, EXPERIAN & TRANS UNION) will each provide one free copy a year, upon request.

### **About Master Your Card**

Master Your Card is a community empowerment education program sponsored by Mastercard, that works with committed partners nationwide to bring information about the benefits of electronic payments technology for underserved communities to build brighter financial futures. The program has facilitated presentations and workshops in numerous cities around the country, provided financial education to tens of thousands of students and reached millions through partners' initiatives and education materials.