

Wells Fargo Customer Identification Program

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, U.S. Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person (individuals and businesses) who opens an account.

What this means for you

When you open an account, we will ask for your name, address, date of birth, and other information that will allow us to identify you. We may also ask to see your driver's license or other identifying documents.

Thank you for choosing Wells Fargo. Our Customer Identification Program is designed to protect you and to comply with the USA PATRIOT Act. We appreciate your support.



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Before You Open An Account...



Wells Fargo Customer Identification Program

The Wells Fargo Customer Identification Program was created to protect you as well as to respond to USA PATRIOT Act requirements for financial institutions.

Changes in Wells Fargo's requests for personal information

You may have noticed recently that you've been asked to provide more personal information or forms of identification than in the past, even if you're an existing customer.

Why the change?

Following the 9/11 attacks, Congress passed a law called the *Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act* of 2001, otherwise known as the USA PATRIOT Act. There are many provisions of this law — including new rules for customer identification and verification — in order to make it more difficult for terrorists and others to use the country's financial system for improper purposes.

What are the objectives of the identification provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act?

The requirements are intended to ensure that *all financial institutions* use care in identifying those with whom they do business. The provisions will also help the government identify and track those who do use the banking system for illegal activities.

Commonly Asked Questions

Are the problems really big enough to warrant all these changes?

Absolutely! In the aftermath of 9/11, we learned how much financial institutions were used to funnel funds to terrorists, as well as to organized crime and drug traffickers. That hurts our country and each of us.

Why does this affect me? I'm not a terrorist.

There are very good reasons. By carefully reviewing documents to positively identify individuals and true owners of companies, trusts, and other legal entities when relationships are established, financial institutions can eliminate most concern over most people and, with law enforcement, focus their efforts on those whose identity is less certain.

And, there is a big benefit for all of our customers, *including you* — added protection from identity theft. You've probably heard or read about identity theft, where someone pretends to be you and, if not detected, attempts to withdraw funds from your accounts, borrow against your name and destroy your credit rating and reputation. Even if the person is caught, re-establishing your good name is painful and takes time. Careful identification of those who use our products and services reduces your risk of identity theft. So when we ask you for your ID or request additional information, it's really to be sure it's you.

Are all financial institutions doing this?

Yes. The USA PATRIOT Act requires all financial institutions to set up customer

identification programs to protect you from identity theft and the country from terrorism and money laundering.

What kind of personal information do you need from me and what will you do to verify it?

In many cases the requirements won't differ much from Wells Fargo's current procedures and may vary depending on things like citizenship or whether the customer is an individual or a legal entity. Uniform minimum standards require us to collect information like:

- name
- physical residence and mailing addresses
- date of birth (individuals and sole proprietorships)
- U.S. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- Social Security Number

We may also verify sources of identification, such as driver's licenses, picture IDs and credit reports for individuals, or formation records for businesses, organizations or trusts.

As a Wells Fargo Customer, don't I have a right to personal information privacy?

Of course! Your financial privacy is protected from unwarranted intrusion by Federal agencies. The changes made by the USA PATRIOT Act deal more with what Wells Fargo knows about its current and prospective customers and sets a standard for asking about, verifying and documenting their identity.