



IRS Office of Identity Theft



Identity Theft and Your Tax Records

IRS **does not** initiate communication with taxpayers through e-mail. Before identity theft happens, safeguard your information.

What do I do if the IRS contacts me because of a tax issue that may have been created by an identity theft?

If you receive a notice or letter in the mail from the IRS that leads you to believe someone may have used your Social Security number fraudulently, please respond immediately to the name, address, and/or number printed on the IRS notice.

Be alert to possible identity theft if the IRS issued notice or letter:

- states more than one tax return was filed for you, or
- indicates you received wages from an employer unknown to you.

An identity thief might also use your Social Security

number to file a tax return in order to receive a refund. If the thief files the tax return before you do, the IRS will believe that you already filed and received your refund if eligible.

If your Social Security number is stolen, it may be used by another individual to get a job. That person's employer would report income earned to the IRS using your Social Security number, making it appear that you did not report all of your income on your tax return. If you have previously been in contact with the IRS and have not achieved a resolution, please contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit, toll-free at 1-800-908-4490.

What do I do if I have not been contacted by IRS for a tax issue but believe I am a victim of identity theft?

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft, but you believe you may be at risk due to a lost/stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity, credit report, or other activity, you need to provide the IRS with proof of your identity.

You should submit a copy, not the original documents, of your valid Federal or State issued identification, such as a social security card, driver's license, or passport, etc, along with a copy of a police report or Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Affidavit. If the FTC Affidavit is not notarized, a witness (non-relative) must sign it. Please send these documents using one of the following options:

Mailing address:

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 9039
Andover, MA 01810-0939

FAX: Note that this is not a toll-free fax number
1-978-247-9965

For your convenience, Form 14026 is available as a cover sheet for submitting your documentation. You may also contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit toll-free 1-800-908-4490 for guidance. Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. your local time (Alaska & Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

For more information please visit us on the web at

www.irs.gov

Keyword: *Identity Theft*

IRS Identity Theft Specialized Unit

1-800-908-4490

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Andover, MA 01810-0939

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Phishing, E-mail Scams and Bogus IRS Web Sites

The IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through e-mail.

- The IRS does not request detailed personal information through e-mail.
- The IRS does not send e-mail requesting your PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

If you receive an e-mail from someone claiming to be the IRS or directing you to an IRS site,

- Do not reply.
- Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer.
- Do not click on any links. If you clicked on links in a suspicious e-mail or phishing Web site and entered confidential information, visit our Identity Theft page.

For samples of actual phishing emails and additional resources available online please visit www.irs.gov key word: phishing and email scams.



Protect Your Tax Records

How to report phishing, e-mail scams and bogus IRS Web sites

If you receive an e-mail or find a Web site you think is pretending to be the IRS,

- Forward the e-mail or Web site URL to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.
- You can forward the message as received or provide the Internet header of the e-mail.

The Internet header has additional information to help us locate the sender.

- After you forward the e-mail or header information to us, delete the message.

You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, forms or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration toll-free at 1-800-366-4484.

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All IRS.gov Web page addresses begin with, <http://www.irs.gov/>