

WARNING SIGNS &
RECOVERY STEPS FOR

TAX IDENTITY THEFT

WHAT IS TAX IDENTITY THEFT



- Filing a fraudulent tax return using another person's Social Security Number (most prevalent)
- Claiming someone else's children as dependents
- Claiming a tax refund using a deceased taxpayer's information
- Earning wages under another person's Social Security Number

HOW DOES TAX IDENTITY THEFT HAPPEN

- Lost or stolen wallets, Medicare cards, or phones
- Theft by family, friends, visitors, advisors
- Dumpster diving
- Stolen mail or tax returns
- Imposter scams
- Corrupt insiders or corrupt tax preparation services



HOW DOES TAX IDENTITY THEFT HAPPEN ONLINE



- Data breaches
- Phony emails from imposters
- Unsecure Wi-Fi hotspots
- Peer-to-peer file sharing
- Downloading software or apps from unknown sources

WARNING SIGNS OF POSSIBLE TAX IDENTITY THEFT

- Social Security Number is lost, stolen, or compromised
- Unusual delay in getting refund
- Receive notification from IRS (most common)
 - Duplicate tax return filing
 - Unreported income
 - Duplicate dependents



TIPS TO MINIMIZE YOUR RISK OF IDENTITY THEFT



- Strengthen passwords & privacy settings
- Handle personal identity information with care
- Read credit reports annually
- Minimize personal information in wallet and phone
- Know your tax preparer
- File your returns as early in the tax season as possible
- If mailing, mail tax returns directly from the post office
- If filing electronically, use secure network
- Store returns securely and shred drafts
- Don't give info unless you know who's asking and why
- Don't click on links sent in unsolicited email

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IRS IMPOSTER SCAMS

- The IRS will not:
 - ask you to pay with prepaid debit cards or wire transfers
 - ask for a credit card number over the phone
 - threaten arrest, deportation, or loss of your driver's license
- If the IRS needs to contact you, they will do it by mail first
- If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040



WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE A VICTIM

Report identity theft and get a personal recovery plan at:

WWW.IDENTITYTHEFT.GOV

Report IRS scams at:

WWW.TIGTA.GOV

The above information is courtesy of the
Identity Theft Resource Center.



IDENTITY THEFT
RESOURCE CENTER
888.400.5530