

National Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week

How it Works:

Tax identity theft occurs when someone steals your personal information for a fraudulent refund or to earn wages. It can involve:

- Filing a tax return using another person's Social Security number.
- Claiming someone else's children as dependents.
- Claiming a tax refund using a deceased taxpayer's information.

What Are The Signs:

- Your Social Security number is lost, stolen or compromised.
- Your tax refund is delayed.
- You receive a notice from the IRS stating it has received a duplicate tax return filing, you have unreported income, or you and somebody else are claiming the same dependents.

What You Should Do:

To avoid becoming a victim of tax identity theft:

- Submit your tax return as early in the tax season as possible.
- Be careful what you share – don't give out your personal information unless you know who is asking and why, and don't be shy about refusing!
- Dispose of sensitive information safely – shred it with a micro-cut shredder.
- Know your tax preparer.

Check the status of your refund after filing at www.irs.gov/refunds. If you think someone filed a fraudulent refund with your information, call the IRS Identity Theft line at 800-908-4490. To learn more, visit www.ftc.gov/taxidtheft.