

# Tax Related ID Theft

**Colorado  
Bureau of  
Investigation  
Identity Theft  
&  
Fraud Unit**

**24 HOUR  
IDENTITY THEFT  
& FRAUD  
HOTLINE  
1-855-443-3489  
(TOLL FREE)**

**VICTIM  
ADVOCATE  
303-239-4649**

**EMAIL  
CBI.STOPIDTHEFT  
@ STATE.CO.US**



## Responding to Tax Related Identity Theft

**Identity Thieves** using your social security number could create a problem for you with the IRS.

If the thief uses your social security number for work, the IRS may show that you earned extra wages you did not report to them.

Or an ID thief could use your social security number or that of your spouse or child to file a fraudulent tax return and collect a big tax refund in your name.

**Quick action** will help resolve these issues before they become big problems. Here are a few tips:

- ⇒ Protect your social security number and tax information from theft. ID thieves know that you will be receiving your W2 forms in the mail in January. Check your mail every day and consider getting a locking mail box or a secure post office box. You could also ask your employer to hold your W2 for you to pick up
- ⇒ File your taxes as early as possible. ID thieves will file fraudulent taxes early in the tax season
- ⇒ Check your wage earnings report with the Social Security Administration every year, and immediately report any wages that do not belong to you
- ⇒ If you receive a notice from the IRS when you try to E-File that a return has already been filed for your social security number, take the notice seriously. Follow the steps outlined later in this document to report and file your returns
- ⇒ If you receive any notice from the IRS about problems with your returns, or if you do not receive your full refund, you have probably been a victim of ID theft. Follow the steps to report and correct your records

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**If you have reason to believe you are a victim of Tax Related Identity Theft, follow these steps:**

- ⇒ Report Identity Theft to your local law enforcement agency and to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. You will need a copy of your police report or a police report number to complete the next steps
- ⇒ Contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline **1-800-908-4490**, and report that you are a victim of Identity Theft
- ⇒ Complete an IRS **Form 14039** (available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))
- ⇒ Send the completed form to the IRS along with, a copy of your police report (or verification of report number), a photocopy of your government issued ID, a paper copy of your tax returns, and a letter explaining that you are a victim of ID Theft. Send to the location listed on the form, or take to an IRS office and deliver in person
- ⇒ You may help law enforcement investigate your Identity Theft by also filing IRS **Form 8821-A**. This form gives the IRS your permission to share information with the investigating officer to help identify the suspect and resolve your concerns
- ⇒ When filing paperwork with the IRS, remember that the IRS wants documents with original signatures. You should make copies of all forms and communications you send and keep in a safe place as you may need to reference them at a later time
- ⇒ Hand delivery to a local IRS office or sending communications by certified mail will help ensure you know your paperwork has been received

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## **What to expect from the IRS:**

- ⇒ The IRS will provide you with a special tax identification number (or PIN) that you will be able to use to communicate with them securely and to file returns safely
- ⇒ The IRS will conduct internal investigations to determine which tax return is legitimate and will then process your return
- ⇒ If you are owed a refund, you should receive the refund from the IRS, however it may take several months or longer to process
- ⇒ If you have problems that persist even after taking these steps, the independent advocacy group known as the IRS Tax Payer Advocate may be able to assist you. Contact them toll free at **1-877-777-4778** or in Colorado at **303-603-4600**
- ⇒ The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has a Victim Assistance Program that is also available to assist you with any Tax Related Identity Theft concerns

## **Colorado Bureau of Investigation Identity Theft & Fraud Investigations Unit**

**Victim Assistance Program  
303-239-4649**

**24 Hour Identity Theft & Fraud Hotline  
1-855-443-3489 (toll free)**