

IRS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS



Per Federal Statute, IRS restricts information about you to local Law Enforcement Agencies.

The IRS Criminal Investigative Division is a major component in IRS's efforts to combat Tax-related Identity theft.

2012, IRS tripled its number of criminal investigations compared to 2011, by initiating nearly 900 investigations regarding identity theft, which resulted in almost 500 indictments.

January 2013, the IRS also conducted and coordinated a highly successful identity theft enforcement sweep. The coast to coast effort against identity theft suspects led to 734 enforcement actions, including 298 indictments, information's, complaints and arrests.

IRS Criminal Investigations has also worked closely with the Division of the Department of Justice on new guidelines to expedite investigations and criminal prosecutions of these fraudsters to deter Identity Theft Re-fund Fraud.

Desoto County Sheriff's Office
208 E. Cypress St. Arcadia FL 34266

863-993-4700

Numbers to Know:

IRS Identity Theft Protection Specialized

Unit: 1-800-908-4490

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration: 1-800-366-4484

Federal Trade Commission: 1-877-FTC-HELP

Florida Senior Legal Helpline: 1-888-985-7873

Fraud Hotline: 1-800-378-0445

Florida Department of Elder Affairs: 1-800-963-5337

National Fraud Information Center: 1-800-876-7060

Better Business Bureau: 1-239-334-4648

Federal Consumer Information Center: 1-800-878-3256

Florida Department of Law Enforcement: 1-850-410-7000

Website for Fraudulent Emails :

IRS.gov/phishing

Website for Identity Theft /Tax Fraud:

<http://www.Irs.gov/uac/Taxpayer-Guide-to-Identity-Theft>

Website to Report Taxpayers Identity Theft:

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/How-Do-You-Report-Suspected-Tax-Fraud-Activity%3F>

Local Tip Line: 863-491-6767

DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF

VICTIM'S OF INCOME TAX FRAUD



Dear Citizen,

If you are receiving this information sheet, it is with our regret that you have become an IRS/Tax Payer related identity theft victim.

This is a growing problem in all communities and is equally frustrating to the members of your Sheriff's Office, as **Federal Law prohibits the IRS from releasing information to us that is needed to investigate this crime.** The Desoto County Sheriff's Office will make an informational report documenting this incident. However, your only option to have this crime investigated and resolved lies in notifying the IRS directly.

Attached is the information that the IRS provides for reporting Taxpayer's Identity Theft (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/How-Do-You-Report-Suspected-Tax-Fraud-Activity%3F>). If you are without internet service the public library can be a source for accessing the internet. Further, if you feel you are unable to navigate and fill out the necessary online information for reporting this crime, the Desoto County Sheriff's Office's Victims Advocate is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

James "Jim" Potter, Sheriff of Desoto County

TAXPAYERS GUIDE TO IDENTITY THEFT

We know Identity Theft is a frustrating process for victims. IRS takes this issue very seriously and has expanded its efforts on many fronts to screen out and stop fraudulent returns.

What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft occurs when somebody uses your personal information such as your name, Social Security number (SSN), or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

How do you know if Your Tax Records have been affected?

Usually, an Identity Thief uses a legitimate taxpayer's identity to fraudulently file a tax return and claim a refund. Generally, the ID Thief will use a stolen (SSN) to file a forged tax return and attempt to get a fraudulent refund early in the filing session.

You may be unaware until you file your return later in the filing session and discover that two returns have been filed using the same (SSN).

Be alert to possible identity theft if you receive a letter from IRS that states that:

- More than one tax return for you was filed,
- You have a balance due, refund offset or have had collection actions taken against you on a year that you did not file,

Or

- IRS records indicate you received wages from an employer unknown to you.

What to do if Your Tax Records were affected by Identity Theft?

If you receive a notice from IRS, **respond immediately**. If you believe that someone has used for (SSN) fraudulently you should respond immediately to the name and number provided on the notice (or) 800-908-4490. You will need to fill out the **IRS Identity Theft Affidavit, Form 14039**. This Form is Found at

<http://www.Irs.gov>

How can you protect your Tax Records?

If your Tax Records are not currently affected but you feel that you may be at risk due to a lost/stolen purse or wallet, contact the **IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 800-908-4490**.

How can you minimize the chance of becoming a victim?

- 1.) Don't carry your Social Security Card or documents with your (SSN) on them.
- 2.) Don't give a business your (SSN) just because they ask, only give it when it is required.
- 3.) Protect your financial information.
- 4.) Check your credit report every twelve months.

5.) Secure personal information in your home.

6.) Protect your personal computers by using firewalls, anti-spam/virus software, update security patches, and change passwords for internet accounts.

IRS DOES NOT INITIATE CONTACT WITH TAXPAYERS BY EMAIL TO REQUEST PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION, THIS INCLUDES ANY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SUCH AS TEXT MESSAGES AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS.

If you receive a scam email claiming to be the IRS, forward it to IRS at phishing@irs.gov

How do Thieves do it?

Thieves gain access to your personal information in different ways such as,

Stealing your purse/wallet,

Posing as someone who needs information about you through a phone call or email,

Looking through your trash for personal information,

Accessing information you provide through an unsecure internet site.