



TAX IDENTITY THEFT TIP SHEET

Tax Identity Theft occurs when an individual files a phony tax return using someone else's personal information, such as a Social Security number, to receive a tax return. It is the most common form of identity theft reported to the Federal Trade Commission. Here are a few tips, hints, and resources to help you protect your identity and prevent thieves from obtaining your personal information and hard earned money.

- Always protect your Social Security number and personal information. Do not give it out unless necessary and do not be afraid to ask why it is needed, how it will be stored and how it will be used.
- When filing your tax return electronically make sure to use a secure internet connection or mail your tax return directly from the post office.
- If possible, file early in the tax season to receive your refund before identity thieves have the chance to file a false refund.
- Shred old tax returns and any documents with personal information.
- Be aware of phony 'phishing' emails identity thieves send out claiming to be representatives from the IRS or other establishments to steal your personal information.
- Know that the IRS will not email, text, or send any social media messages requesting your personal information. If the IRS needs any personal information they will contact you by mail. Make sure to respond to mail from the IRS in a timely manner.
- If you receive a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS, hang-up and call the IRS Identity Theft Protection Unit at **1-800-908-4490** to verify their identity.
- Remember to check your credit report annually at www.annualcreditreport.com for accounts that may have been opened in your name without your knowledge.
- For more information about tax identity theft, visit:

The Federal Trade Commission
The Internal Revenue Service
The Florida Department of Financial Services

www.ftc.gov/idtheft
www.irs.gov/identitytheft
www.MyFloridaCFO.com/YMM