



Identity Theft and Your Taxes

Byrd Accounting

www.byrdaccounting.biz

150 S Woodland Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787

407-656-5400

Fax: 407-656-1199

Identity Theft and Your Taxes

Your identity and money can be stolen in a tax-related scam via email ("phishing"), fax, phone, or letters. Some recent examples of identity theft scams are:

- **Phone scam.** A bogus phone call where you are told you owe the IRS money and threatened that a warrant will be issued for your arrest. Variations include the threat of other law-enforcement agency intervention, deportation, or revocation of licenses. Some scam artists program their computers to display IRS phone numbers on your Caller ID.
- **Email phishing scam.** A bogus email that appears to be from the IRS or a program closely related to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment system (EFTPS), that attempts to trick you into revealing personal and financial information. The email includes links to bogus websites intended to mirror the official IRS website.
- **Tax transcript.** The bogus email carries an attachment labeled "Tax Account Transcript" or something similar, and the subject line uses some variation of the phrase "tax transcript." The attachment contains a well-known malware known as Emotet.
- **IRS refunds.** A bogus email, claiming to come from the IRS, tells you that you are eligiblex to receive a tax refund for a given amount if you just follow the instructions in the email.

Notify the IRS

If you receive a tax-related phishing email, do not click on the links or open any attachments. Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov or call the IRS at 800-366-4484.

How the IRS Contacts Taxpayers

- The IRS will never initiate contact with you by email or any social media tools to request personal or financial information.
- It is unusual for the IRS to initiate contact by fax or phone call. You can call the IRS at 800-829-1040 to verify that an unexpected fax or phone call is legitimate.

Fraudulent Tax Returns

An identity thief might use your Social Security Number to fraudulently file a tax return and claim a refund. You could be completely unaware that your identity has been stolen until your return is rejected for e-filing or you get an IRS notice or letter.

Rejected e-File

Your electronically filed return is rejected because the Social Security Number belonging to you, your spouse, or a dependent has already been used on a tax return.

- This situation can occur because of a mistyped number or dispute about claiming a dependency exemption. Such cases do not necessarily indicate identity theft.
- If your return has been rejected because of a previously used Social Security Number, it cannot be e-filed. You must file a paper return.

IRS Notice

You receive an IRS notice or letter stating that:

- More than one return was filed in your name for the year,
- You have a balance due, refund offset, or initiation of collection action for a year when you did not file a return, or

Identity Theft and Your Taxes

- IRS records indicate that you received wages from an employer you didn't work for.

You should respond immediately to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter. You will be asked to complete Form 14039, *Identity Theft Affidavit*, and provide identifying information.

IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit (IPSU)

If you believe there is a risk of identity theft due to lost or stolen personal information, contact the IPSU immediately so the agency can take action to secure your tax account.

- Call 800-908-4490.
- You will be asked to complete Form 14039, *Identity Theft Affidavit*.

Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit

Form 14039 has two purposes.

- 1) Informs the IRS you are an actual or potential victim of identity theft that has or could affect your tax account.
- 2) Requests that the IRS mark your account to identify any questionable activity.

You must provide details of the actual or potential identity theft situation, tax years impacted (if known), address and other contact information, and a photocopy of valid government-issued identification.

Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) Program

If the IPSU determines that you do have a tax-related identity theft problem, the IPSU will research your account, identify the IRS business unit handling the case, and monitor the case to ensure it is being handled in a timely manner.

- The IRS may issue you an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN). The computer-generated IP PIN has six digits and is specific to the tax year for which it was provided.
- The IRS issues IP PINs to allow a legitimate taxpayer's return to bypass the identity theft filter, prevent

fraudulent returns from being processed, and minimize taxpayer burden associated with potential delays when a return fails one or more of the identity theft filters.

- A new IP PIN will be issued to you every filing season as long as the identity theft indicator remains on your account.

Using an IP PIN

You will receive an IRS notice in the mail containing the single-use six-digit PIN. The IRS does not use email or fax to notify taxpayers of an IP PIN.

- All six digits must be input on your Form 1040 in the space to the right of the spouse's occupation line. Use of the IP PIN on the return acts as an authenticator to validate you as the legitimate owner of the Social Security Number on the tax return.
- If you lose or misplace the IP PIN letter, the IRS may issue a replacement IP PIN for the year. You may file a paper return without the IP PIN, but processing and refunds may be significantly delayed.

Surprise IP PIN Letter

The IRS has been known to mail an IP PIN letter to a taxpayer who was previously unaware of a potential tax-related identity theft problem. If you receive an unexpected IP PIN letter, you can call the IPSU phone number (800-908-4490) to verify that the IP PIN letter is legitimate.

Identity Theft Outside the Tax System

You may be at increased risk for tax-related identity theft for various reasons.

- You have lost or had stolen a wallet, purse, or documents that include sensitive identifying information.
- You have noted questionable credit card activity or credit report information.
- You have fallen victim to an identity theft scam.

Contact Us

There are many events that occur during the year that can affect your tax situation. Preparation of your tax return involves summarizing transactions and events that occurred during the prior year. In most situations, treatment is firmly established at the time the transaction occurs. However, negative tax effects can be avoided by proper planning. Please contact us in advance if you have questions about the tax effects of a transaction or event, including the following:

- Pension or IRA distributions.
- Significant change in income or deductions.
- Job change.
- Marriage.
- Attainment of age 59½ or 70½.
- Sale or purchase of a business.
- Sale or purchase of a residence or other real estate.
- Retirement.
- Notice from IRS or other revenue department.
- Divorce or separation.
- Self-employment.
- Charitable contributions of property in excess of \$5,000.

This brochure contains general information for taxpayers and should not be relied upon as the only source of authority. Taxpayers should seek professional tax advice for more information.

Copyright © 2019 Tax Materials, Inc.
All Rights Reserved

Identity Theft Affidavit

Complete this form if you need the IRS to mark an account to identify questionable activity.

Section A - Check the following boxes in this section that apply to the specific situation you are reporting (Required for all filers)

- 1. I am submitting this Form 14039 for myself
- 2. This Form 14039 is submitted in response to a 'Notice' or 'Letter' received from the IRS
 - Please provide 'Notice' or 'Letter' number(s) on the **line to the right** _____
 - Please check box 1 in **Section B** and see special mailing and faxing instructions on reverse side of this form.
- 3. I am submitting this Form 14039 on behalf of my 'dependent child or dependent relative'
 - Please complete **Section E** on reverse side of this form.
 - Caution:** If filing this on behalf of your 'dependent child or dependent relative', filing this form will protect his or her tax account but it will **not** prevent the victim in **Section C** below from being claimed as a dependent by another person.
- 4. I am submitting this Form 14039 on behalf of another person (*other than my dependent child or dependent relative*)
 - Please complete **Section E** on reverse side of this form.

Section B - Reason For Filing This Form (Required)

Check only **ONE** of the following boxes that apply to the person listed in **Section C** below.

- 1. **Someone used my information to file taxes**
- 2. **I don't know if someone used my information to file taxes, but I'm a victim of identity theft**

Please provide an explanation of the identity theft issue, how you became aware of it and provide relevant dates. If needed, please attach additional information and/or pages to this form.

Section C - Name and Contact Information of Identity Theft Victim (Required)

Victim's last name	First name	Middle initial	Taxpayer Identification Number <i>(Please provide 9-digit Social Security Number)</i>
--------------------	------------	----------------	--

Current mailing address (*apartment or suite number and street, or P.O. Box*) If deceased, please provide last known address

Current city	State	ZIP code
--------------	-------	----------

Tax Year(s) you experienced identity theft (<i>If not known, enter 'Unknown' in one box below</i>)	What is the last year you filed a return								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="width: 12.5%; border: 1px solid black;"> </td> </tr> </table>									

Address used on last filed tax return (<i>If different than 'Current'</i>)	Names used on last filed tax return (<i>If different than 'Current'</i>)
--	--

City (<i>on last tax return filed</i>)	State	ZIP code
--	-------	----------

Telephone number with area code (<i>Optional</i>) If deceased, please indicate 'Deceased'	Best time(s) to call
Home telephone number _____ Cell phone number _____	

Language in which you would like to be contacted English Spanish

Section D - Penalty of Perjury Statement and Signature (Required)

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information entered on this Form 14039 is true, correct, complete, and made in good faith.

Signature of taxpayer, or representative, conservator, parent or guardian	Date signed
---	-------------

Submit this completed form to either the mailing address or the FAX number provided on the reverse side of this form.

Section E – Representative, Conservator, Parent or Guardian Information (Required if completing Form 14039 on someone else's behalf)

Check only **ONE** of the following five boxes next to the reason you are submitting this form

- 1. The taxpayer is deceased and I am the surviving spouse**
 - No attachments are required, including death certificate.
- 2. The taxpayer is deceased and I am the court-appointed or certified personal representative**
 - Attach a copy of the court certificate showing your appointment.
- 3. The taxpayer is deceased and a court-appointed or certified personal representative has not been appointed**
 - Attach copy of death certificate or formal notification from a government office informing next of kin of the decedent's death.
 - Indicate your relationship to decedent: Child Parent/Legal Guardian Other _____
- 4. The taxpayer is unable to complete this form and I am the appointed conservator or have Power of Attorney/Declaration of Representative authorization per IRS Form 2848**
 - Attach a copy of documentation showing your appointment as conservator or POA authorization.
 - If you have an IRS issued **Centralized Authorization File (CAF)** number, enter the nine-digit number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- 5. The person is my dependent child or my dependent relative**
 By checking this box and signing below you are indicating that you are an authorized representative, as parent, guardian or legal guardian, to file a legal document on the dependent's behalf.
 - Indicate your relationship to person: Parent/Legal Guardian Fiduciary Relationship per IRS Form 56
 Power of Attorney Other _____

Representative's name

Last name	First name	Middle initial
-----------	------------	----------------

Representative's current mailing address (City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code)

Representative's telephone number

Instructions for Submitting this Form

Submit this completed and signed form to the IRS via **Mail** or **FAX** to specialized IRS processing areas dedicated to assist you. In **Section C** of this form, be sure to include the Social Security Number in the 'Taxpayer Identification Number' field.

Help us avoid delays:

- Choose one method of submitting this form either by Mail or by FAX, not both.
- Please provide clear and readable photocopies of any additional information you may choose to provide.
- Note that 'tax returns' may not be submitted to either the mailing address or FAX number.

Submitting by Mail	Submitting by FAX
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you checked Box 1 in Section B in response to a notice or letter received from the IRS, return this form and if possible, a copy of the notice or letter to the address contained in the notice or letter. • If you checked Box 1 in Section B of Form 14039, are unable to file your tax return electronically because the primary and/ or secondary SSN was misused, attach this Form 14039 to the back of your paper tax return and submit to the IRS location where you normally file your tax return. • If you've already filed your paper return, please submit this Form 14039 to the IRS location where you normally file. Refer to the 'Where Do You File' section of your return instructions or visit IRS.gov and input the search term 'Where to File'. • If you checked Box 2 in Section B of Form 14039 (no current tax-related issue), mail this form to: <div style="text-align: center;"> Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Fresno, CA 93888-0025 </div> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you checked Box 1 in Section B of Form 14039 and are submitting this form in response to a notice or letter received from the IRS. If it provides a FAX number, you should send there. If no FAX number is shown on the notice or letter, please follow the mailing instructions on the notice or letter. • Include a cover sheet marked 'Confidential'. • If you checked Box 2 in Section B of Form 14039 (no current tax-related issue), FAX this form toll-free to: <div style="text-align: center;"> 855-807-5720 </div>

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Notice

Our legal authority to request the information is 26 U.S.C. 6001. The primary purpose of the form is to provide a method of reporting identity theft issues to the IRS so that the IRS may document situations where individuals are or may be victims of identity theft. Additional purposes include the use in the determination of proper tax liability and to relieve taxpayer burden. The information may be disclosed only as provided by 26 U.S.C. 6103. Providing the information on this form is voluntary. However, if you do not provide the information it may be more difficult to assist you in resolving your identity theft issue. If you are a potential victim of identity theft and do not provide the required substantiation information, we may not be able to place a marker on your account to assist with future protection. If you are a victim of identity theft and do not provide the required information, it may be difficult for IRS to determine your correct tax liability. If you intentionally provide false information, you may be subject to criminal penalties. You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the Internal Revenue Service, Tax Products Coordinating Committee, SE:W-CAR:MP:T:T:SP, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, DC 20224. Do not send this form to this address. Instead, see the form for filing instructions. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.