



Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers



Identity theft places a burden on its victims and presents a challenge to many businesses, organizations and governments, including the IRS. The IRS combats this crime with an aggressive strategy of prevention, detection and victim assistance.

What is tax-related identity theft?

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security number (SSN) to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. If you become a victim, we are committed to resolving your case as quickly as possible.

You may be unaware that this has happened until you e-file your return and discover that a return already has been filed using your SSN. Or, the IRS may send you a letter saying it has identified a suspicious return using your SSN.

Know the warning signs

Be alert to possible tax-related identity theft if you are contacted by the IRS about:

- More than one tax return was filed for you,
- You owe additional tax, have a refund offset or have had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return, or
- IRS records indicate you received wages or other income from an employer for whom you did not work.

Steps for victims of identity theft

If you are a victim of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission recommends these steps:

- File a complaint with the FTC at identitytheft.gov.
- Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a 'fraud alert' on your credit records:
 - www.Equifax.com 1-888-766-0008
 - www.Experian.com 1-888-397-3742
 - www.TransUnion.com 1-800-680-7289
- Close any financial or credit accounts opened by identity thieves

If your SSN is compromised and you know or suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, the IRS recommends these additional steps:

- Respond immediately to any IRS notice; call the number provided or, if instructed, go to IDVerify.irs.gov.
- Complete IRS Form 14039, *Identity Theft Affidavit*, if your e-file return rejects because of a duplicate filing under your SSN or you are instructed to do so. Use a fillable form at IRS.gov, print, then attach form to your paper return and mail according to instructions.

- Continue to pay your taxes and file your tax return, even if you must do so by paper.
- If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, contact us for specialized assistance at 1-800-908-4490. We have teams available to assist.

More information is available at: IRS.gov/identitytheft or FTC's identitytheft.gov.

About data breaches and your taxes

Not all data breaches or computer hacks result in tax-related identity theft. It's important to know what type of personal information was stolen.

If you've been a victim of a data breach, keep in touch with the company to learn what it is doing to protect you and follow the "Steps for victims of identity theft." Data breach victims should submit a Form 14039, *Identity Theft Affidavit*, only if your Social Security number has been compromised and IRS has informed you that you may be a victim of tax-related identity theft or your e-file return was rejected as a duplicate.

How you can reduce your risk

Join efforts by the IRS, states and tax industry to protect your data. **Taxes. Security. Together.** We all have a role to play. Here's how you can help:

- Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Use strong passwords.
- Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card companies and even the IRS.
- Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.
- Protect your personal data. Don't routinely carry your Social Security card, and make sure your tax records are secure.

See Publication 4524, Security Awareness for Taxpayers to learn more.

NOTE: The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

Identity Theft Affidavit

Section E – Representative Information (Required only if completing this form on someone else's behalf)

If you are completing this form on behalf of another person, you must complete this section and attach clear and legible photocopies of the documentation indicated.

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

- The taxpayer is deceased and I am the surviving spouse. (No attachments are required)
- The taxpayer is deceased and I am the court-appointed or certified personal representative.
Attach a copy of the court certificate showing your appointment.
- The taxpayer is deceased and a court-appointed or certified personal representative has not been appointed.
Attach a copy of the death certificate or the formal notification from the appropriate government office informing the next of kin of the decedent's death. Indicate your relationship to the decedent: _____
- The taxpayer is unable to complete this form and I have been appointed conservator or have Power of Attorney (POA) authorization.
Attach a copy of the documentation showing your appointment as conservator or your POA authorization.
If you are the POA and have been issued a CAF number by the IRS, enter it here: _____

Representative's name _____

Current mailing address _____

City _____	State _____	ZIP code _____
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Section F – Penalty Of Perjury Statement and Signature (Required for all filers)

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

Signature of taxpayer or representative of taxpayer _____	Date signed _____
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Instructions for Submitting this Form

Submit this form and clear and legible copies of required documentation using **ONE** of the following submission options. Mailing **AND** faxing this form **WILL** result in a processing delay.

By Mail	By FAX
<p>If you checked Box 1 in Section A and are unable to file your return electronically because the primary and/or secondary SSN was misused, attach this form and documentation to your paper return and submit to the IRS location where you normally file. If you have already filed your paper return, submit this form and documentation 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".</p> <p>If you checked Box 1 in Section A and are submitting this form in response to a notice or letter received from the IRS, return this form and documentation with a copy of the notice or letter to the address contained in the notice or letter.</p> <p>If you checked Box 2 in Section A (you do not currently have a tax-related issue), mail this form and documentation to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Internal Revenue Service PO Box 9039 Andover MA 01810-0939</p>	<p>If you checked Box 1 in Section A and are submitting this form in response to a notice or letter received from the IRS that shows a reply FAX number, FAX this completed form and documentation with a copy of the notice or letter to that number. Include a cover sheet marked "Confidential." If no FAX number is shown, follow the mailing instructions on the notice or letter.</p> <p>If you checked Box 2 in Section A (you do not currently have a tax-related issue), FAX this form and documentation to: (855) 807-5720.</p> <p>NOTE: The IRS does not <i>initiate</i> contact with taxpayers by email, fax, or any social media tools to request personal or financial information. Report unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS and bogus IRS websites to phishing@irs.gov.</p> <p>NOTE: For more information about questionable communications purportedly from the IRS, visit IRS.gov and input the search term "Fake IRS Communications".</p>

Other helpful identity theft information may be found on www.irs.gov/uac/Identity-Protection. Additionally, locations and hours of operation for Taxpayer Assistance Centers can be found at www.irs.gov (search "Local Contacts").

Note: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the central federal government agency responsible for identity theft awareness. The IRS does not share taxpayer information with the FTC. Refer to the FTC's website at www.IdentityTheft.gov for additional information, protection strategies, and resources.

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.

Instructions for Form 8821-A, IRS Disclosure Authorization for Victims of Identity Theft

General Instructions

This form is available only from IRS Criminal Investigation or state/local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

Purpose of Form

This form is an authorization signed by the taxpayer allowing the IRS to disclose the taxpayer's return, any purported return, and other related return information to state or local law enforcement in the event of possible identity theft. It may not be used for any other purpose.

When To File

The IRS must receive Form 8821-A within 120 days of the date it is signed and dated by the taxpayer. The IRS will consider forms received after 120 days invalid.

Where To File

The taxpayer will return the completed form to IRS Criminal Investigation or to state or local law enforcement as directed by the person who provided the form.

Social Security Number (SSN)

Social Security Numbers are used to identify taxpayer information with tax returns. It is important that you furnish the correct name and SSN, so that the IRS can respond to your request.

Specific Instructions

Taxpayer Information

Enter the taxpayer's name, SSN, and street address.

Tax Year

Enter the tax year for which the taxpayer's return and any purported return was filed. If there are additional years, you must complete and submit another Form 8821-A for each year.

Taxpayer Consent

Enter taxpayer name in the space provided. Enter the full name and title of the state or local law enforcement official to whom the described taxpayer information may be provided, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the state or local law enforcement agency.

Taxpayer Signature

Sign and date the authorization. The IRS will only accept forms with original signatures.