



Tax-Related Identity Theft

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security Number (SSN) to get a tax refund or a job.

Warning Signs.

To prevent tax-related identity theft, be wary of any Internal Revenue Service (IRS) letters or notices that state:

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

The IRS does not initiate contact with a taxpayer by sending an email, text, or social media message requesting personal or financial information. Should you get an email that claims to be from the IRS, do not reply or click on any hyperlinks. Instead, you should report it to the IRS. The **United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT)** provides alerts and tips on how you can protect yourself against U.S. tax phishing scams and malware campaigns.

Dealing with Tax-Related Identity Theft.

If you suspect someone has used your Social Security Number (SSN) for a tax refund or a job, or the IRS sends you a letter or notice indicating a problem, take these steps:

- File a report with the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**. You may also call the **FTC Identity Theft Hotline** at **1-877-438-4338** or **1-866-653-4261 TTY**.
- Contact the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit records:
 - Equifax: 1-888-766-0008
 - Experian: 1-888-397-3742
 - TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289
- Contact your financial institutions and close any accounts opened without your permission or any that have been tampered with.
- Respond immediately to any IRS notice; call the number provided. If instructed, go to the **Identity Verification Service**.
- Complete **IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit**, then mail or fax according to instructions.
- Continue to pay your taxes and file your tax return, even if you must do so by paper.

Census-Related Fraud

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal agency responsible for collecting data about the people and economy of the United States. It must collect some personal and demographic information from people and businesses to do this research.

Some scam artists may act as if they work for the U.S. Census Bureau to collect personal information about you to use for fraud, including stealing your identity. These scam artists may send you letters

that seem like official letters from the U.S. Census Bureau, or they may come to your home trying to collect information about you.

The U.S. Census Bureau provides tips to help you spot and report these scams so that you do not become a victim.

To verify if a survey is from the U.S. Census Bureau:

- Call the regional **U.S. Census Bureau** office if someone wants to visit your home to conduct a survey.
- Call the **National Processing Center** if you receive a survey by mail or phone.