



ROCHESTER POLICE DEPT. ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT

Tax Identity Theft

Educate to Prevent Initiative 1/5/2015



Tax Identity Theft is when an identity thief uses your Social Security number to get a tax refund or a job. Contact the IRS if they send you a notice (by mail) saying their records show:

- you were paid by an employer you don't know
- more than one tax return was filed using your Social Security number

Help protect yourself from Tax Identity Theft by following listed guidelines:

- File your tax return early in the tax season, if you can.
- Use a secure internet connection if you file electronically, or mail your tax return directly from the post office.
- Shred copies of your tax return, drafts, or calculation sheets you no longer need.
- Respond to all mail from the IRS as soon as possible.
- Know the IRS won't contact you by email, text, or social media. If the IRS needs information, it will contact you by mail.
- Don't give out your Social Security number (SSN) unless necessary.
- Research a tax preparer thoroughly before you hand over personal information.
- If your SSN has been compromised, contact the IRS ID Theft Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490.
- Check your credit report at least once a year for free at annualcreditreport.com to make sure no other accounts have been opened in your name.

More information about tax identity theft is available from the FTC at ftc.gov/taxidtheft and the IRS at irs.gov/identitytheft.