

INVESTIGATOR TIPS

Clues to Tax-Related Identity Theft

As with most types of identity theft, a victim of tax-related identity theft will not know someone else used their Social Security number (SSN) on a fraudulent tax return as soon as it happens. There is a delay between the criminal using the stolen SSN and the taxpayer finding out they are a victim.

The following are signs that may indicate your Social Security number was stolen and used for the purpose of getting a fraudulent tax refund:

- You are told that you cannot file your tax return electronically because a return associated with your SSN was already received by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- You received correspondence (by postal mail) from the IRS stating any of the following:
 - More than one tax return was filed for you
 - Additional tax is owed by you
 - A refund offset was taken
 - Collection actions were taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return
 - IRS records show you received wages from an employer unknown to you

What Should I Do First?

If you are filing electronically and are told that you cannot submit your return via the internet, print your complete form, attach the necessary documents and mail it to the appropriate office. See <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Where-To-File-Addresses-for-Tax-Professionals> to determine where your return needs to be sent.

In this case or in other situations where you believe you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, submit the *IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit* with your return. Watch for other correspondence from the IRS and follow instructions within.

Important Notes!

The IRS will NOT contact a taxpayer by email, text, or social media. Their first contact with you and usually all subsequent contacts are done by postal mail.

The IRS does NOT call taxpayers to make threats and demand immediate payment. Scammers like to call people and pretend to be IRS agents to try to scare people into paying money.

A service of the Investigators of Kroll

These materials are derived from the research and discovery activities of Kroll Fraud Specialists and Licensed Investigators, and have been gathered from personal, historical, and aggregated experience performing specialized restoration services on behalf of Identity Theft victims. While believed to be accurate, these materials do not constitute legal advice, and are not guaranteed to be correct, complete or up-to-date. No part of this document may be reproduced, transmitted, transcribed, stored in a retrieval system, or translated into a language or computer language, in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, optical, chemical, manual or otherwise, without the express written consent of Kroll. These materials are provided for informational purposes only.

MEM-110-2015-02-20