



Choosing A Tax Preparer

Because a client needs to share sensitive data with a tax preparer, be sure to carefully choose a tax professional. Consider the following tips in selecting a tax preparer:

- Investigate the preparer’s history. Consider how long have they been in business and whether they are available outside of tax season;
- Ask how personal information is stored and protected;
- Research their reputation online. Check for complaints with the Better Business Bureau at BBB.org;
- If the chosen preparer is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), verify their license with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at MyFloridaLicense.com; and
- If the chosen preparer is an attorney specializing in tax issues, ensure the individual is in good standing with the Florida Bar and has no complaints against them at FloridaBar.org.

Florida Attorney General’s Office Scams at a Glance: Tax Identity Theft

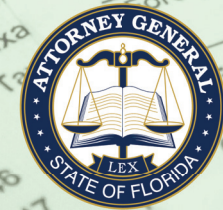
Visit MyFloridaLegal.com to find consumer tips or to file a complaint. By remaining vigilant and informed, savvy consumers can help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

Report fraud by calling
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
(1-866-966-7226).

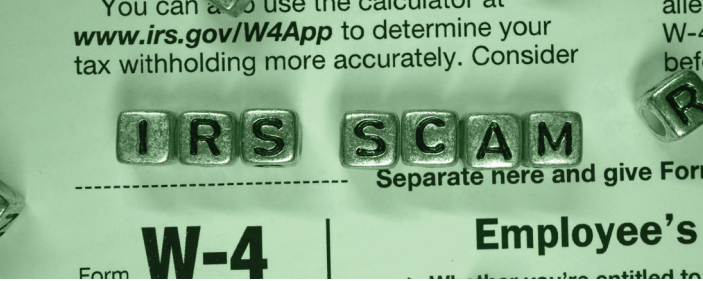


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Scams at a Glance: Tax Identity Theft



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Tax identity theft can occur when someone other than the taxpayer:

- Files a fraudulent tax return using a taxpayer's Social Security number and personal information to receive a tax refund;
- Uses a taxpayer's Social Security number to get a job, causing problems for the victim when their reported income does not match IRS records; or
- Fraudulently claims a taxpayer's child as a dependent, preventing that child from being rightfully claimed by the taxpayer.

Red Flags

Some warning signs that a fraudulent tax return may have been submitted include:

- A notice from the IRS about a tax year that has not yet been filed by the taxpayer;
- Additional taxes owed;
- An unexpected reduction of a refund because of a delinquent debt; or
- Collection actions taken against the taxpayer for a year that has not yet been filed.

Stop Tax Identity Theft in its Tracks

Consider the following tips to help prevent tax identity theft:

- Be wary of a tax preparer that guarantees a larger refund than other preparers;
- Remember that the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers via email, text message, or social media. Only in rare circumstances will the IRS call; however, they will always send a letter first;
- File tax returns as soon as possible to prevent a scammer from fraudulently doing so first;
- When filing a tax return electronically, use a secure internet connection. Do not use non-secure, publicly available Wi-Fi hotspots like those at hotels and coffee shops;
- When filing via a paper tax return, mail it directly from the post office, not from home;
- Sign up for an Identity Protection PIN from the IRS. Should someone attempt to file a fraudulent return of a taxpayer enrolled in the IP PIN program, the return will be rejected or delayed until the taxpayer confirms their identity. Get an IRS IP PIN at [IRS.gov/GetAnIPPIN](https://www.irs.gov/GetAnIPPIN); and
- Never provide a Social Security number or IRS IP PIN in response to an unsolicited call or message.

Recover From Identity Theft

Anyone who falls victim to tax identity theft should complete the IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and attach it to the year's tax return.

Taxpayers should also check their credit reports at [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com) to ensure no fraudulent accounts have been opened with their information.

Additionally, anyone who encounters identity theft should file a complaint with the Florida Attorney General's Office at [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com) or at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226).

Form 14039 (December 2020)	Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service Identity Theft Affidavit	OMB Number 1545-2139
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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 filing 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.

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. If the taxpayer in 'Section C' has previously submitted a Form 14039 to the IRS on the same affected tax year(s), there's no need to submit another Form 14039.

1. Someone used my information to file taxes, including being incorrectly claimed as a dependent

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

[AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com)

The only source for your free credit reports. Authorized by Federal Law.

Home | All about credit reports | Request yours now! | What to look for | Protect your identity | Frequently asked questions | Contact us

During these times of COVID-19, accessing your credit is important. That's why Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion are now offering free weekly online reports through April 2021.

Request your free credit reports

One of these things is not like the others.

You may think you have one credit report and one credit score. But you really have several, and they may differ. You should check all three reports regularly.

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Search: All AG databases and website

<p>Citizen Services Contact Form</p> <p>To submit a state of emergency Price Gouging complaint to the Florida Attorney General's Office, please use the separate Price Gouging Complaint Form.</p> <p>To submit other complaints or questions to this office, please fill out the form below and click on the "Submit" button. You will receive an electronic confirmation that your complaint or question has been received by this office.</p> <p>If you would like to keep current with news on Attorney General's efforts to fight fraud please subscribe to the Attorney General's weekly newsletter.</p> <p style="font-size: xx-small;">*Required information</p>	<p>QUICK LINKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File a Complaint • Open Government • Biennial Rule Review • e-Service • Consumer Protection • AG Opinions • Employment • Internship
<p>NEWS RELEASES view all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG Moody concluded investigation of Sabra H. AG Moody Encourages Law Enforcement to 	