



Catholic Foundation

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IRS Identity Theft Fact Sheet

Each January the IRS publishes a fact sheet for identity theft victims. In FS-2016-3 the IRS stated, “The IRS knows identity theft can be frustrating and confusing for victims. When it comes to tax-related identity theft, the Internal Revenue Service wants to resolve cases as quickly as possible. The IRS has worked hard to help victims of identity theft by making improvements and shortening the time it takes to resolve these complex situations.”

There are six recommended steps in the IRS procedures.

1. **File** – If you are not able to eFile, you must file for the year using a paper tax return.
2. **Report** – Use IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, and send it in with your paper tax return.
3. **IRS Response** – The Identity Theft Victim Assistance (IDTVA) section of the IRS will respond with a letter.
4. **Scope and Issues** – IDTVA will check to see if other years of your returns are suspect. There may be other victims on the fraudulent return filed with your name. IRS will also check to make sure that the returns have accurate names, addresses and Social Security Numbers.
5. **Refunds** – After the IRS reviews various issues, it will process a refund, if you are so entitled. The IRS goal is to resolve the case within 120 days.
6. **Future Returns** – You will receive an Identity Protection PIN number in a letter from the IRS. You may use this number on your future tax returns.

If the IRS suspects fraud, it will contact you by letter. The letter may ask you to go to idverify.irs.gov to enter information. There also will be a toll-free number to the IRS Taxpayer Protection Program.

Further information from the Federal Trade Commission is available on www.identitytheft.gov.