**Victim of Identity Theft steps:**

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email or by phone to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

If you are a victim of identity theft, the IRS suggests these steps:

* File a report with the local police;
* File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov/), or call one of the FTC Identity Theft Hotlines ([1-877-438-4338](tel://1-877-438-4338), [1-866-653-4261](tel://1-866-653-4261));
* Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a “fraud alert” on your records—
  + Equifax, [www.Equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com/), [1-800-525-6285](tel://1-800-525-6285);
  + Experian, [www.Experian.com](http://www.experian.com/), [1-888-397-3742](tel://1-888-397-3742);
  + TransUnion, [www.TransUnion.com](http://www.transunion.com/), [1-800-680-7289](tel://1-800-680-7289);
* Close any accounts opened without your permission or tampered with.

If your Social Security Number is compromised and you know or suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, take these additional steps:

* Respond immediately to any IRS notice by calling the number provided on the form;
* Complete IRS Form 14039 (Identity Theft Affidavit);
* Continue to pay your taxes and file your tax return, even if you must do so by paper.

If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, contact the Identity Protection Specialized Unit at [1-800-908-4490](tel://1-800-908-4490).