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# Identity Theft Prevention and Victim Assistance



Department of the Treasury  
**Internal Revenue Service**

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[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

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**Information from  
the Internal Revenue Service**

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The Federal Trade Commission, the lead agency on identity theft, reported that the IRS has a low number of identity theft crimes; however, we take this issue very seriously.

### **What is identity theft?**

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, Social Security Number or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

Identity theft is a serious crime. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years, and their hard earned money, cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their good name and credit record. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities, be refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

### **How can you minimize becoming a victim?**

- Don't carry your SSN.
- Don't give a business your SSN just because they ask-only when absolutely necessary.
- Protect Your Financial Information
- Check your credit report every 12 months.
- Secure personal information in your home
- Don't give personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the internet unless you have initiated the contact or you are sure you know who you are dealing with.

### **Remember the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers via e-mails.**

- Protect your personal computers by using firewalls, anti-spam/ virus software, update security patches, and change passwords for internet accounts.

### **What if you are a victim of identity theft?**

- Report incidents of identity theft to the FTC at **[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)** or the FTC Identity Theft hotline at **877.438.4338** or **TTY 866.653.4261**.
  - File a report with the local police.
  - Contact the fraud departments of the three major credit bureaus:
    - Equifax – **[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)**
    - Experian – **[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)**
    - TransUnion – **[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)**
  - Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
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## How could identity theft impact your tax records?

- Individuals may use your SSN to get a job. That person's employer would report the W-2 wages earned using your SSN to IRS. This may give the appearance that you did not report all of your income on your return.
- When you subsequently file your tax return the IRS will believe you already filed and received a refund, and the return you actually submitted is a second copy or duplicate.
- Be alert to possible identity theft if you receive an IRS notice or letter that states that:
  - More than one tax return for you was filed, or
  - IRS records indicate you received wages from an employer unknown to you.

## What should you do if your tax records are affected by Identity Theft?

If you receive a notice from IRS respond immediately. If you believe someone may have used your SSN fraudulently, please notify IRS immediately by responding to the name and number printed on the notice or letter.

## What if you receive an e-mail claiming to be from the IRS?

- Remember, the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers via e-mail, and the IRS does not request detailed personal information through e-mail.
- Confirm the contact you have received is from the IRS by calling **800.829.1040**.
- Please forward the bogus e-mail claiming to be from the IRS to **phishing@irs.gov**. Go to **IRS.gov** (keyword *phishing*) to get instructions on how to forward the e-mail message.
- Do not open attachments or click on the links found within the bogus e-mail.

### For additional information, visit:

- **IRS.gov/** (keyword *identity theft*)
- **IRS.gov** (keyword *phishing*)

# Identity Theft

Office of Privacy, Information Protection and Data Security  
**Internal Revenue Service**  
*Protecting your identity*

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# Prevención del Robo de Identidad y Asistencia Para Victimas



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**Internal Revenue Service**

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[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

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**Información del Servicio  
de Impuestos Internos**

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Aún cuando la Comisión Federal de Comercio (Federal Trade Commission FTC), la agencia encargada de reunir información sobre el robo de identidad, ha reportado que el IRS cuenta con un número menor de crímenes de robo de identidad, tomamos este asunto muy en serio.

### **¿Qué es el Robo de Identidad?**

El robo de identidad ocurre cuando alguien utiliza su información personal tal como su nombre, número de seguro social, u otra información sin su permiso, para cometer fraude o algún otro crimen.

El robo de identidad es un crimen serio. Personas cuyas identidades han sido robadas pueden pasar meses o años, y gastar grandes cantidades de dinero, intentando corregir los problemas que los ladrones crearon dañando su buen nombre y récord de crédito. Entretanto, las víctimas pueden perder oportunidades de empleo, negárseles préstamos, educación, vivienda o automóviles o aun ser arrestados por crímenes que no cometieron.

### **¿Cómo puede minimizar la posibilidad de ser una víctima?**

- No lleve consigo su número de seguro social.
- No de su número de seguro social a un negocio simplemente porque se lo soliciten. De su número de seguro social sólo cuando sea absolutamente necesario.
- Proteja su información financiera
- Revise su informe de crédito cada 12 meses.
- Cuide de su información personal en su hogar.
- No de información personal por teléfono, o por correo, o por Internet a menos que sea usted quien inicia la comunicación y usted esta seguro con quien esta tratando. **Recuerde, el IRS no inicia comunicación con los contribuyentes a través de correo electrónico.**
- Proteja su computadora personal utilizando firewalls, software anti spam y anti virus, actualice su sistema de seguridad y actualice su contraseña para cuentas de Internet.

### **¿Que debe hacer si ha sido víctima del robo de identidad**

- Reporte los incidentes de Robo de Identidad a la FTC al, **[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)** o a la línea telefónica del FTC al **877.438.4338**, o **TTY 866.653.4261**.
  - Presente una queja con su departamento local de policía.
  - Comuníquese con el departamento de fraude de las agencias nacionales de crédito:
    - Equifax – **[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)**
    - Experian – **[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)**
    - TransUnion – **[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)**
  - Cancele cualquier cuenta que usted sabe o creé ha sido infiltrada o se inició de manera fraudulenta.
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## ¿Cómo puede el Robo de Identidad afectar mi récord tributario?

- Un individuo podría utilizar su número de seguro social para conseguir trabajo. El empleador de dicho individuo reportaría el ingreso al IRS con su número de seguro social. Esto haría parecer que usted no reporto todo su ingreso en la declaración de impuesto.
- Posteriormente cuando usted presenta su declaración de impuesto el IRS creé que usted ya presento la declaración y recibió su reembolso, y que la declaración de impuestos que usted esta enviando es una copia o duplicado de la declaración.
- Este alerta a la posibilidad del robo de identidad si la carta le comunica que:
  - Usted presento más de una declaración de impuesto, o
  - Los registros del IRS indican que usted recibió ingreso de un empleador el cual le es desconocido.

## ¿Que debe hacer si su récord tributario es impactado por el Robo de Identidad?

Si usted recibe notificación de parte del IRS, comuníquese con nosotros inmediatamente. Si usted creé que alguien pudo utilizar su número de seguro social fraudulentamente, por **favor infórmelo al IRS inmediatamente**, comunicándose al número telefónico y con la persona cuyo nombre aparece en la carta.

## ¿Qué debe hacer si recibe e-mail sospechoso el cual dice provenir del IRS?

- Recuerde, el IRS no inicia comunicación con los contribuyentes a través de correo electrónico. Además, el IRS no solicita información personal detallada por medio de correo electrónico.
- Confirme que la correspondencia que usted recibió es verdaderamente de parte del IRS, llame al IRS al **800-829-1040**.
- Por favor envíe dicho mensaje a **phishing@irs.gov**. Visite **IRS.gov**, palabra clave, *phishing* para obtener información detallada sobre como enviarnos el e-mail.
- No abra el mensaje de origen dudoso, ni seleccione los enlaces.

### Recursos:

**IRS.Gov/ español** (palabra clave: Robo de Identidad)

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*Protecting your identity*