

PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

Identity Theft is a Major Problem

We are concerned about our clients with respect to the identity theft that is occurring. We acknowledge that identity theft is a frustrating process for victims. The following will help to keep it in check.

- ✓ Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Use strong passwords.
- ✓ Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card companies and even the IRS.
- ✓ Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

Protect your personal data. Don't routinely carry your Social Security card, and make sure your tax records are secure. Leaving check books, credit/ debit cards or wallets in your vehicle is an opportunity for thieves. Lock car doors.

Please note: If a copy of a tax return is requested, it may be picked up at the office in person or mailed with a signature request. The cost of each copy is \$35 plus postage if required. We cannot fax or email tax returns, due to the fact, these methods are not secure and have a higher than normal probability of exposure to identity theft.

When faxing tax information i.e., W2's, 1099's, or prior year returns to the office/ preparer all but the last 4 digits of the social security number must be redacted (blacked out).

Checking the credit bureau's at least once a year is also recommended

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

Equifax 1-800-766-0008

Experian 1-888-397-3742

The following are contacts that can be notified in case of SSN(s) being used fraudulently.

Contact the Police

IRS 1-800-829-1040

IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit 1-800-908-4490

SS Administration 1-800-269-0271 or www.socialsecurity.gov
and type "Fraud" in the Search box

Federal Trade Commission Identity Fraud Hotline 1-877-438-4338 or www.ftc.gov/complaint

***Notify credit bureaus. See above for phone numbers.**

****Fill out IRS Form 14039 Identity Theft Affidavit**

****Information contained herein is current and valid at time of posting. Our firm accepts no responsibility for tax law changes after publishing.**