



Department of
Taxation

HELP FIGHT TAX FRAUD (and protect yourself)

The Ohio Department of Taxation, the IRS, and tax professionals are working together to fight internet criminals trying to steal tax refunds and more. Please do your part to protect yourself, your family and your assets.

USE SECURITY SOFTWARE TO PROTECT COMPUTERS

- Install a firewall and virus/malware protection.
- Encrypt tax returns and other sensitive data stored on a computer.

BEWARE OF PHISHING EMAILS AND PHONE SCAMS

- Identity thieves often steal names, Social Security and credit card numbers, passwords, and bank account information by just asking.
- Watch out for emails, phone calls and texts from 'legitimate' companies or organizations asking you to take some action, like updating a bank account or clicking on a link or an attachment.
- Beware of callers posing as the IRS, threatening you with jail or lawsuits unless you make an immediate payment.

PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

- Don't routinely carry your Social Security number.
- Shred old tax returns and other sensitive documents before discarding.
- Check your credit reports and Social Security Administration accounts annually to ensure no one is using your credit or SSN.
- Careful! Don't share too much personal detail on social media. Identity thieves can use that information in their illicit schemes.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NEW THIS YEAR

The 2016 filing season will bring more secure standards for logging onto all tax software products such as minimum password requirements, new security questions and standard lockout features. As tax departments add more screening elements to safeguard taxpayer dollars, refund processing may take longer. The industry will provide more information from the tax returns to the IRS and the Ohio Department of Taxation to help identify fraudulent returns. All public and private sector tax groups are sharing information weekly to quickly identify and adjust to new and emerging tax-related fraud schemes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Identity Theft FAQs](#)
- [IRS Publication 4524](#)