



**Legal Aid Society of Orange County**  
**Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC)**  
2101 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

## **WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT?**

Identity theft is the use of your personal information such as your name and Social Security number without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes.

### **How identity theft can affect your tax records:**

An employer may report the W-2 wages of an individual who used your SSN to obtain the job. When you file your tax return the IRS will believe you have already filed and collected a refund.

### **Be aware of possible identity theft if you receive a notice or a letter from the IRS stating that:**

- You filed more than one tax return, or
- You received wages from an employer unknown to you.

### **What do I do if my tax records are affected by identity theft or if I believe I am at risk of identity theft?**

#### **DO NOT PANIC & FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS**

1) **AT RISK**: If you believe you may be at risk of identity theft due to factors such as lost or stolen personal items or questionable credit card activity, you should contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. You should submit a copy of your valid Federal or State issued identification and a completed IRS Identity Theft Affidavit – Form 14030 and/or a copy of a police report.

2) **IRS NOTICE**: If the IRS sends you a notice, you should respond immediately. If you believe your SSN is being used fraudulently, notify the IRS immediately by replying to the name and number on the IRS notice.

3) **E-MAIL**: The IRS **does not initiate communication with taxpayers via email**. The IRS also does not request the taxpayer's detailed personal information through email. Do not open attachments or click on links found in the fraudulent email. Forward the fraudulent email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) (keyword: *phishing*) for instructions on how to forward the email.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY  
(714) 571-5200 OR 1-800-834-5001**