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Wisconsin Department of Revenue Protecting Citizens Against Identity Theft and Fraudulent Refunds

Agency's Anti-Fraud Programs Saved Taxpayers \$49.7 Million in Fiscal Year 2014

Wisconsin tax officials are taking steps to protect your identity – and your refund – again this tax season. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue is in its second year of utilizing its identity verification program to help guard against fraudsters who want to steal your identity and your tax refund. In fiscal year 2014, the agency's ID verification and other initiatives saved taxpayers \$49.7 million in fraudulent or inappropriately filed claims.

"It's common to hear about cybercrimes in the news on a regular basis, and identity theft is becoming more common. We are taking proactive steps to help protect our citizens against someone filing a false tax return by trying to use their personal information," said Secretary Richard Chandler. "Wisconsin is using technology to protect our tax dollars and scare away people trying to steal your identity."

How ID Verification Works

Tax returns are selected for review based solely on analytics where various factors indicate the possibility of identity fraud. When this happens, the department will require the taxpayer to take a short identification quiz or provide documents proving their identity before processing the refund. If you are the real taxpayer, the questions would be easy to answer.

Taxpayers selected to take an identity quiz will receive an identity verification letter asking them to complete the quiz within 20 days. The four-question quiz can be taken online or by interactive telephone. Once the quiz is complete, taxpayers will know whether or not they passed or failed the quiz.

If they passed, the agency will continue to process the return. If a taxpayer failed the first quiz, they will have the opportunity to take a second quiz. If they fail twice, the taxpayer must mail documentation to the department proving their identity. The department will not issue a refund until a quiz is passed or the proper documentation is provided and all information is complete to process the return.

You can learn more about the Department of Revenue's [ID verification program](#) or [report suspected tax fraud](#) on our website.

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