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Wisconsin on High Alert for Fraudulent Tax Returns – Enhanced Monitoring May Slow Processing and Refund Time

Turbo Tax reports it is halting the filing of state income tax returns

Wisconsin has not seen widespread fraud in the filing of 2014 income tax returns, but the state's tax officials are on high alert this morning following an announcement that Intuit is currently halting the filing of state income tax returns in all states nationwide through its *Turbo Tax* software. (See CNBC story, [Intuit halts all state e-filings on fraud concerns.](#)) Based upon reports from other states regarding possible identity fraud, the department is taking additional precautions to review income tax returns by adding to the scope of the existing identity protection program.

"Wisconsin's online e-file and computer systems have not been compromised, and we've been utilizing our identity protection program since last year to weed out any possible fake income tax returns in addition to our other fraud efforts," said Secretary Richard Chandler. "We will continue to diligently review returns to protect our citizens, which may lead to some delay in processing time and issuing refunds. We know people want their refunds quickly, but we also know they don't want their money going to a hacker because someone has stolen their identity."

Tax officials in other states have reported seeing an uptick in recently filed 2014 income tax returns that have hit their criteria for further fraud screening. In these instances, customers are getting a message someone has already filed a 2014 income tax return, but it was not the taxpayer. Wisconsin is screening more than 60,000 returns filed over the weekend and earlier this week, but officials have not seen the same issues here in Wisconsin.

"We're collaborating with other states to help identify possible fraud and patterns, and we'll continue to leverage our fraud efforts and identity protection program to help safeguard our tax filers," said Chandler.

If you have a question about your tax preparation software, please contact the provider directly. Turbo Tax Customer Contact Webpage: <https://support.turbotax.intuit.com/contact/>

New Wisconsin App to Check Your Tax Return Status

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has temporarily added a new application to its site today which allows you to check to see if someone has used personal information from another source to file a fraudulent return.

1. Go to www.revenue.wi.gov and click on "[Check to see if your 2014 tax return was filed](#)" under Quick Links.
2. Enter your driver's license and social security number. Click on Lookup.
3. Results:
 - If you have not yet filed this year's income tax return, but our website says we have one on hand, please follow the instructions on the website.
 - If you have filed, and our application does not reflect this, you do not need to be concerned because we may still be receiving and processing your return.

Note: as an added safety measure, you cannot use your social security number to look up your return in this application more than three times in a 24-hour period.

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 will 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.

If you receive a quiz or letter from the Department and you have not yet filed your 2014 income tax return, use the number provided on the correspondence you received to notify us immediately.

In fiscal year 2014, the agency's ID protection program and other fraudulent security efforts saved taxpayers \$49.7 million in fraudulent or inappropriately filed claims.

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

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