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Wisconsin Department of Revenue Targeting Fraud and Identity Theft *Anti-Fraud Initiatives Save Taxpayers \$192 Million Over Five Years*

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) continues to help protect taxpayers' identities and prevent fraudulent activity this tax season by utilizing its identity verification tools. Wisconsin has not seen widespread fraud in returns that have been filed, but tax officials remain vigilant to safeguard tax filers as reports of identity theft become more common. Last tax season, DOR stopped nearly \$58 million in fraudulent refunds and credits, and the agency continues to add more ID verification tools each year.

"We are taking proactive measures to help safeguard our taxpayers and will use an abundance of caution when issuing refunds, because identity theft, unfortunately, has become very common," said Secretary Richard Chandler. "Our systems are secure, and our enhanced security precautions will delay the time it takes for some individuals to get their refund. But, we also know taxpayers want us to protect their identity and help ensure their refund isn't going to someone who's stolen their personal, confidential information."

Most recently, there have been announcements that cybercriminals have attacked the [Internal Revenue Service](#) and [TaxSlayer](#) computer systems. DOR is working with these organizations to identify possible fraud patterns. "We diligently review filed tax returns to protect our citizens. We ask taxpayers to allow at least two-to-three weeks processing time this season as we leverage our ID verification tools to help safeguard our filers," said Chandler.

How ID Verification Works

The Department uses analytics to identify returns that indicate possible identity theft. If this happens, the agency will send a letter to the taxpayer asking them to complete a quiz, enter a unique Personal Identification Number (PIN), or submit documentation to confirm their identity.

The unique PINs are a new tool DOR is using this year to help safeguard taxpayers who have been identified as an identity theft victim. These taxpayers will receive a letter from the Department requiring them to verify his/her identity by using the PIN the agency provides to confirm the tax return the agency received was filed by the actual taxpayer.

DOR ID Verification Tools – Agency Sends Letter to Taxpayer If Possible Identity Theft			
Quiz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short, four question quiz Questions are based upon info only taxpayer should know Can be taken online or over the phone 	Unique PIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used solely to verify your identity Can be entered online or by calling DOR Customer Service 	Provide Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxpayers submit documents that confirm their identity Often used when not enough information to generate quiz 	See If Your Return Has Been Filed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Go to www.revenue.wi.gov Click on "Check to see if your 2015 tax return was filed" under <i>Quick Links</i> Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you <u>have not</u> yet filed but our website says we have a tax return, follow the instructions online. If you have filed, but our application doesn't show a return, don't worry because it may still be processing.

During the past five tax seasons, the Department stopped \$192 million in potential fraud. This is an increase of 170% - or an additional \$121 million – when compared to the previous five tax seasons. The increase is due to the Department's continuous expansion of its anti-fraud efforts and tools as more cybercriminals attempt fraud.

DOR Anti-Fraud Efforts	
Fiscal Year	Total Savings
2015	\$57,786,246
2014	\$49,659,865
2013	\$30,173,245
2012	\$25,738,269
2011	\$29,054,408
Total Five Year Savings	\$192,412,033
2010	\$18,604,585
2009	\$18,084,318
2008	\$13,881,956
2007	\$10,137,308
2006	\$10,366,656
Total Five Year Savings	\$71,074,823

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