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## Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Efforts Pay Off

### Anti-Fraud Initiatives Save Taxpayers \$315 Million Over Seven Years

More than \$59.5 million in fraudulent and erroneous refunds and credits were blocked last tax season thanks in part to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's use of identity verification tools.

"Our goal is to ensure that the identities of tax filers are secure and protected, and we've implemented a number of security measures to achieve that goal," said Richard Chandler, Wisconsin Department of Revenue Secretary.

"We carefully review filed tax returns to protect taxpayers, since cybercrime and identity theft have become more common," Secretary Chandler said. "Our systems are very secure, but when criminals steal someone's personal information from other sources, they may use it to file a fraudulent tax return."

"We ask tax filers to allow up to 12 weeks processing time this season as we use our ID verification tools to ensure their refund is not going to someone who's stolen their personal, confidential information," Chandler added.

#### How ID Verification Works

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue uses analytics to identify tax returns that indicate possible identity theft. If there's a concern, DOR sends a letter to the tax filer asking them to complete a quiz, enter a Personal Identification Number (PIN), or submit documentation to confirm their identity. The unique PINs are a tool DOR began using last year to help safeguard tax filers. DOR does not call to request information. Rather, a letter is sent requesting that the tax filer contact DOR.

DOR ID Verification Tools – Agency Sends Letter to Taxpayer If Possible Identity Theft			
<b>Quiz</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short, four question quiz</li> <li>Questions are based upon info only taxpayer should know</li> </ul>	<b>Unique PIN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used solely to verify your identity</li> <li>Can be entered online or by calling DOR Customer Service</li> </ul>	<b>Provide Documentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taxpayers submit documents that confirm their identity</li> </ul>	<b>See If Your Return Has Been Filed</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go to <a href="http://www.revenue.wi.gov">www.revenue.wi.gov</a></li> <li>Click on "Was your 2017 tax return filed" under <i>Quick Links</i></li> </ol> <b>Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you <u>have not</u> yet filed but our website says we have a tax return, follow the instructions online.</li> <li>If you have filed, but our application doesn't show a return, don't worry because it may still be processing.</li> </ul>

During the past seven tax seasons, the Department stopped more than \$315 million in potential fraud. The increase is due to DOR's continuous expansion of its anti-fraud efforts and tools as more cybercriminals attempt fraud. For more information, visit DOR's [Protecting Taxpayers page](#).

<b>DOR Anti-Fraud Efforts</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total Savings</b>
2017	\$59,566,026
2016	\$63,043,527
2015	\$57,786,246
2014	\$49,659,865
2013	\$30,173,245
2012	\$25,738,269
2011	\$29,054,408
Total Seven Year Savings	\$315,021,586
2010	\$18,604,585
2009	\$18,084,318
2008	\$13,881,956
2007	\$10,137,308
2006	\$10,366,656
Previous Five Year Savings	\$71,074,823

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