Tips to Help
Protect
Against Tax
Fraud

Voluntary legal and identity theft plans offer employees another layer of protection during tax season. When tax season approaches, our team of identity theft specialists and licensed private investigators receive a lot of questions related to tax fraud. This type of fraud is becoming increasingly common and is a form of identity theft. Tax identity theft occurs when someone else uses your Social Security number to file a fraudulent return to receive a tax refund.

Our licensed private investigators have provided five tips to help you keep your identity safe and your tax refund out of the hands of criminals.

1. **File Early!** The earlier you file, the less chance a criminal will be able to file a fraudulent tax return.
2. **File Smart.** If filing electronically, make sure you use a secure internet connection. If mailing your return, take it straight to the post office.
3. **Watch out for W-2 Phishing Scam.** As part of this scam, an email will be sent appearing as if coming from a member of management or organization to secure W-2 files.
4. **Watch out for money scams.** The IRS will not ask you for payment over the phone, nor will they ask you to pay your taxes via a credit/debit card or wire transfer. The IRS will only contact you by mail.
5. **Protect your Social Security and Medicare Card number.** Do not give out this information unless it is absolutely necessary. Thieves can use this information to file a fraudulent return.

With IDShield, if a participant is a victim of tax fraud, a dedicated Licensed Private Investigator (LPI) can help guide the participant through the IRS calls and paperwork to ensure their identity is restored. As a proactive approach, IDShield also monitors a participant's Social Security number and other Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and will send an alert in real time if a discrepancy is found. LegalShield can provide advice and consultation on the matter and can even represent the participant during a tax audit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATE:

LegalShield™