



Potential Identity Theft

We have been unable to electronically file your federal tax return this year because it was rejected with an indication that a tax return for one of the social security numbers listed at the top of the return has already been filed. This could have occurred because of an innocent error by some other taxpayer, such as entering an incorrect social security number on their return; but it could also indicate an attempted or successful case of identity theft. Regardless of the reason, you will have to file your federal return on paper this year.

Contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline (800-908-4490) to discuss the situation. **If identity theft is suspected** after this discussion, you should take the following steps:

1. Complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, and submit it with your paper federal tax return. Check the box that says "I am a potential victim", complete, sign, and date the form and attach a copy of one of the types of identity documents listed on the form to verify your identity. Please note that submitting this form will cause the processing of your tax return to be delayed. You may receive a letter from the IRS with instructions on how to minimize this delay in future years. If you receive such a letter, please bring it to the person preparing your next tax return so they can follow the special instructions it contains.
2. Contact the three credit reporting agencies, explain what has happened, and tell them you want to report a case of possible identity theft.
 - Equifax – 800-525-6285
 - Experian – 888-397-3742
 - TransUnion – 800-680-7289
3. Contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213, report your situation to them, and follow any instructions they give you.

Optional, but strongly recommended by the IRS:

4. File a report of possible identity theft with your local law enforcement agency.
5. File a report of possible identity theft with the Federal Trade Commission at www.consumer.gov/idtheft or at 877-438-4338.
6. Obtain IRS Publication 4535, Identity Theft Prevention and Victim Assistance, for further information and advice.

We are sorry for the inconvenience this has caused you and look forward to preparing your tax return in future years.

**AARP FOUNDATION
TAX-AIDE**