

PETER N. INGVERTSEN CHIEF OF POLICE

March 5, 2015

Tax Season is busy enough without being the victim of tax related identity theft. The Simsbury Police Department is committed to keeping our community informed and being a helpful resource.

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your social security number to file a tax return, claiming a fraudulent refund. You may be unaware you are a victim until you attempt to file your taxes and learn one has already been filed using your social security number.

You should be alert to possible identity theft if you receive an IRS notice or letter that states:

- More than one tax return was filed using your SSN;
- You owe additional taxes, a refund has been offset, or have had collections taken against you for a year that you did not file a tax return;
- IRS records indicate you have received wages from an employer unknown to you.

If you become a victim you should:

- Contact the Simsbury Police Department at 860-658-3100 or stop in to police headquarters to file a report.
- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490 and complete an Identity Theft Affidavit Form 14039; available through the www.irs.gov.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at <u>www.identitytheft.gov</u> or on the FTC Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338 or TTY 1-866-653-4261.
- Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a "fraud alert" on your credit records:
 - o Equifax, <u>www.Equifax.com</u>, 1-800-525-6285
 - o Experian, <u>www.Experian.com</u>, 1-888-397-3742
 - o TransUnion, <u>www.TransUnion.com</u>, 1-800-680-7289
- Close any accounts opened without your permission or tampered with.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft, but you believe you may be at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490.

For questions or concerns please contact PFC Lauren Devin, Community Services Officer, at 860-658-3131.