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Wisconsin Department of Revenue Targets Fraud and Identity Theft *Anti-Fraud Initiatives Save Taxpayers \$255 Million Over Six Years*

More than \$63 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.

"We are vigilant in our efforts to safeguard the refunds and identities of tax filers with enhanced ID verification tools," said Richard Chandler, Wisconsin Department of Revenue Secretary.

"As reports of cybercrimes and identity theft become more common, the DOR prevents fraudulent activity by diligently reviewing filed tax returns to protect our citizens," Sec. Chandler said. "Our systems are secure, however when fraudsters steal your identity from other sources, they may try to file a fraudulent tax return."

"We ask tax filers to allow at up to 12 weeks processing time this season as we leverage 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 returns that indicate possible identity theft. When this happens, the 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 the DOR began using last year to help safeguard tax filers.

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 	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 	See If Your Return Has Been Filed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Go to www.revenue.wi.gov Click on "Was your 2016 tax return 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 six tax seasons, the Department stopped more than \$255 million in potential fraud. The increase is due to the DOR's continuous expansion of its anti-fraud efforts and tools as more cybercriminals attempt fraud. For more information, visit the DOR's [Protecting Taxpayers page](#).

DOR Anti-Fraud Efforts	
Fiscal Year	Total Savings
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 Six Year Savings	\$255,455,560
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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