

Save Money Filing Taxes and Protect Yourself from **TAX IDENTITY FRAUD!**



Tax Season is in full swing, and while it is not something all consumers look forward to, it may mean a much-needed tax refund will soon arrive for some. However, the start of tax season also marks the beginning of something much more sinister: tax identity theft season. Fortunately, there are several steps consumers can take that may help reduce the risk of tax ID fraud.



From 2011-2014,
identity thieves claimed
23 BILLION
DOLLARS IN
FRAUDULENT TAX
REFUNDS.

Money that should
have gone to
legitimate taxpayers.

Reducing Risk of Tax ID Fraud: A Checklist

Did you....

- File early?** Filing early in the tax season is the easiest way to reduce the risk of an identity thief beating you to it and stealing your refund.
- Get educated about the law?** A new law called the PATH Act requires the IRS to hold refund checks until February 15 for consumers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC).
- Check with IRS on the status of your refund?** To check the status of your refund, visit the irs.gov/refunds website or take advantage of the IRS2Go smartphone app.
- Take advantage of free tax preparation help?** For those who generally make \$54,000 or less, take advantage of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs in your community. VITA programs are staffed by IRS-certified volunteers who can help you navigate this year's delay and prepare accurate returns safely and securely, completely free of charge.
- Use Free File to e-file?** Consumers who make up to \$62,000 per year qualify for the IRS's Free File program, which allows the use of free, name-brand tax filing software from some of the biggest names in the tax prep business.

