

In the event an individual finds any level of possible identity theft they should:

1. Contact local law enforcement – This could be difficult because even with the stigma of tax identity theft today, most local law enforcement officials continue to believe that tax identity theft is NOT their problem. Be persistent and insist that a theft report is taken by local law enforcement.

2. File and FTC complaint – Go to **identitytheft.gov**, which will not only list the steps the injured party should take, but also has a link to file the identity theft report with the FTC. Or call the FTC Identity Theft hotline at 877-438-4338.

3. Ask any one of the 3 major credit reporting agencies to place a fraud alert on the account (the others will pick it up): EQUIFAX (800-525-6285), Experian (888-397-3742) or Trans Union (800-680-7289). These requests can also be done on line.

4. Close any financial accounts that were opened without your permission (obtained by the credit report).

5. Respond to any IRS notice immediately.

6. Submit Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, to the IRS as quickly as possible.