

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Tax Identity Fraud

Does the Archdiocese of Portland know where the security breach occurred?

No. The IRS is still investigating. At this point, however, there is no indication of any breach of the Archdiocesan computer network.

Did the security breach occur within the system of the company that provides background checks?

According to IRS investigators, the IRS is not currently attributing the security breach to the company.

When did this breach occur?

At this point, we do not know where or when the breach occurred. We do know that victims' social security numbers have been used in fraudulent tax returns for the calendar year 2013. This type of fraud has been experienced nationally for several years, and has now reached the Pacific Northwest.

When will we know where the breach occurred?

The IRS is currently investigating this case. When their investigation is complete, the findings will be made public.

What is the Archdiocese doing to help resolve this tax identity fraud issue?

The Archdiocese is cooperating fully with the IRS. We are assisting in collecting information and providing information to the IRS for its ongoing investigation. As the Archdiocese obtains further information it is posted on this website. We encourage pastors, principals, and administrators to communicate with staff and volunteers on a regular basis as information is available.

Where can I get up to date information regarding this tax identity fraud?

Information will be posted on this Archdiocesan website. Check back for updates. Other information is available at www.irs.gov as well as at www.dfcs.oregon.gov (Click on Identity Theft)

Is this only a problem within the Archdiocese of Portland?

No. We can confirm that some employees and volunteers of the Archdiocese, a parish or school have had their identity stolen and fraudulent tax returns filed under their names. However, we understand that the problem is more extensive, reaching far beyond Catholic organizations.

If we haven't yet filed a federal tax return for 2013, how do we know if our identity has been compromised?

Call the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490, Ext. 245. The IRS representative will walk you through the steps to determine if your tax identity has been compromised.

Note: For those who file joint returns, each spouse should speak to an IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit agent to determine if one or both social security numbers have been compromised.

What are the steps we should take if our identity has been compromised?

Please refer to the link on this website entitled "Steps to Take if You are a Victim of Tax Identity Fraud".

Note: Even if only one spouse's identity has been compromised, each spouse should complete an IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit.

These FAQs will be updated as information becomes available.