

Date February 06, 2020

## Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Feb. 7, 2020



In recognition of National Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week, I issued a Consumer Alert full of tips to help taxpayers protect their personal information. Tax season is a prime time for criminals to try and steal your identity or file for a return in your name. Luckily, there are steps you can take to reduce your exposure.

No one likes doing their taxes, but procrastination is the enemy when guarding against refund scams. One of the best things you can do to avoid tax return fraud is to file your return early. By taking quick action, you eliminate the opportunity for a scammer to use your information to steal your tax return.

Scammers will use telephone number spoofing technology to trick taxpayers into thinking they are receiving a call from the Internal Revenue Service. So, remember that the IRS only initiates contact by mail and will never demand that you make an immediate payment.

Also, when hiring a professional to do your taxes, thoroughly research tax preparers before handing over personal and financial information.

Finally, if you're filing online be sure to use a secure internet connection, and if filing by mail, take your return directly to the post office.

If you do encounter a tax return scam, contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration online at [TIGTA.gov](https://www.tigta.gov) or by calling 1(800) 366-4484.

By taking steps to protect your identity and guard against scams this tax season, you can stop fraud and help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



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