Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.

**IDENTITY THEFT**

Don’t Be
A Victim,
Know How
To Protect
Yourself

This important information is brought to you by: Judicare’s Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic.
What To Do When You Have Been Affected By Identity Theft

1) Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit
   1-800-908-4490
   Monday-Friday
   8:00AM-8:00PM

2) Have a hold placed on your account

3) File an ID Theft Complaint with the Federal Trade Commission then take the printed complaint form with you to file a police report to ensure that all the details are included.

Awareness is an effective weapon against many forms identity theft. Be aware of how information is stolen and what you can do to protect yours, monitor your personal information to uncover any problems quickly, and know what to do when you suspect your identity has been stolen.

What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

How Thieves Steal an Identity

1. Dumpster Diving. They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.

2. Skimming. They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

3. Phishing. They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.

4. Changing Your Address. They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.

5. Old-Fashioned Stealing. They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records, or bribe employees who have access.

6. Pretexting. They use false pretenses to obtain your personal information from financial institutions, telephone companies, and other sources.
How To Protect Yourself

Protect Your Social Security Number
- Don’t carry your social security card (SSN); leave it in a secure place.
- Only give your SSN when absolutely necessary.
- Your employer and financial institution may need your SSN for wage and tax reporting purposes.
- Don’t give a business your SSN just because they ask for it. Ask why your SSN is needed and if other types of identifiers can be used.

Protect personal and financial information
- Shred all personal and financial information before throwing it away.
- Check your credit report at least once per year at www.annualcreditreport.com
- Don’t give your personal or financial information to anyone over the phone or via e-mail.

How Do You Know If Your Identity Was Stolen?

The best way to find out is to monitor your accounts and bank statements each month, and check your credit report on a regular basis.

IMPORTANT!

The IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through e-mail
- The IRS does not request detailed personal information through e-mail.
- The IRS does not send e-mail requesting your PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

If you receive an e-mail from someone claiming to be the IRS or directing you to an IRS site,
- Do not reply.
- Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer.
- Do not click on any links.
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_Wisconsin Judicare’s LITC does not do current year tax preparation._

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