

IRS and Identity Theft TaxYear 2015

If you were the victim of Identity Theft and the IRS knows about it, then you will be issued an Identity Protection 6 digit pin to be used on your tax return. These pins are being mailed to tax payers who were affected by ID theft.

The IRS emphasized that taxpayers and their tax professionals should use the IP PINs on these notices when they file their 2015 returns. The number is valid for all individual tax returns filed in 2016.

In the 2014 tax filing season, it issued more than 1.2 million of them. The IRS uses IP PINs to verify taxpayers' identities and accept their electronic or paper tax return. Taxpayers who have an IP PIN prevent someone else from filing a tax return with their Social Security number.

According to the IRS, for victims of tax return identity theft, if a return is e-filed with their SSN and an incorrect or missing IP PIN, the IRS system will reject it until the return is submitted with the correct IP PIN or filed on paper. If the same conditions occur on a paper-filed return, the IRS will delay processing of the return, and any refund due is withheld for the taxpayer's protection while the IRS determines if it belongs to the taxpayer.