

# Tax Identity Fraud Response

March 18, 2014-*to be updated*

*This information is provided to supervisory personnel and ministry leaders of the Archdiocese of Seattle who supervise employees or volunteers that may be victimized by tax identity fraud.*

The archdiocese is deeply concerned about reports that employees and volunteers have become victims of national tax identity fraud and recognize how difficult this situation can be for everyone.

## Actions taken to date

After learning of the problem:

- We immediately notified the IRS and FBI and hired a private security firm to investigate.
- We took immediate steps to inform employees, volunteers and the public.
- A tax fraud resource site was created on our archdiocesan [website](#) to provide information about steps that can be taken.

## Steps being taken now

Current efforts are focused on identifying the source of the problem:

- The IRS, FBI and our private security firm are each investigating and cooperating with each other.
- We are making an effort to update the [website](#) with new information or resources appropriate for sharing.

## What we know

We know that some employees and volunteers of the archdiocese have been victims of tax identity fraud. We also know that tax identity fraud is a national problem that has apparently been going on for several years and is now impacting our community.

## What we don't know

We do not know the source of the problem. As a result, we cannot say whether the source originated from systems within the archdiocese — including parishes and schools — or systems of vendors or another outside source.

## Information and Resources

Please share this information with all employees and volunteers you supervise and monitor the archdiocesan [website](#) for additional information.

### Provide the following information to all who inquire regarding this matter:

- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490, Ext. 245 to determine if the tax identity of the inquiring person has been compromised.

### Provide the following information to anyone whose tax identity has been compromised:

- Contact an IRS Special Agent at 206-464-4920.
- Follow instructions from the IRS representative, which may include contacting a credit reporting agency and making an identity theft report to the Federal Trade Commission.
- File a police report with the relevant local law enforcement agency.
- Send an email to [taxinformation@seattlearch.org](mailto:taxinformation@seattlearch.org) confirming that the person's tax identity has been compromised, including: full name, parish or school and status (e.g., as an employee or volunteer).

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