

## Tax ID Theft Awareness 2015 Twitter Chat

On Jan. 29, 2015, staff from the FTC's Division of Privacy and Identity Protection co-hosted a Twitter chat with the Identity Theft Resources Center. The chat was part of the agency's [Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week](#), which ran Jan. 26-20.

Staff used the agency's [@FTC](#) Twitter account, and the hashtag: #IDTheftChat.

**Note:** Tweets in their original order remain on the FTC's Twitter account for as long as Twitter allows.

Hope you join FTC staff & @ITRCSD in 60 minutes (3pm ET) to discuss #TaxIDTheft - Tweet your questions with #IDTheftChat.

RT @ITRCSD: Our co-host today is @FTC. Thanks for joining us! #IDTheftChat

Hi all, Steve Toporoff here from the FTC. Excited to answer questions about #TaxIDTheft. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: Q1: What is tax identity theft? #IDTheftChat

A1 #TaxIDTheft happens when an identity thief uses your Social Security number to get a job or file a tax refund. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: Q2: What are the signs of #taxidtheft? #IDTheftChat

A2 You may get a notice from the IRS stating you've already filed for a refund or you haven't reported all your earnings. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: Q3: What should someone do if they're a victim of tax identity theft? #IDTheftChat

A3 Contact IRS; put fraud alert on credit report; order credit reports; file complaint w/FTC. More info: <http://go.usa.gov/SAUF> #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: Q4: How can you prevent becoming a victim of tax identity theft? #IDTheftChat

A4 File your taxes early. Use a secure connection (https) or mail directly from the post office. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD Q5: How long should you keep tax records & how should you properly destroy them? #IDTheftChat

A5 Keep records for at least 7 years; if in doubt, contact the IRS before shredding or disposing of records. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: Q6: How do I know if it's really the IRS contacting me? #IDTheftChat

A6 IRS will contact you via mail – not by email, text or social media message & they won't ask for personal or financial info. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: Q7: What should I do if someone claiming to be IRS wants my cc number to pay taxes or a fine? #IDTheftChat

A7 Hang up if they're calling you & report suspected IRS imposters to TIGTA:  
<http://go.usa.gov/SAG9> #IDTheftChat

Q8 @ITRCSD Do you take physical paperwork to a tax preparer or do your own taxes online? #IDTheftChat

A8 When doing taxes online, make sure your connection is secure! Do not use public wi-fi to file! #IDTheftChat (1/2)

A8 (2/2) If bringing paperwork to tax preparer, make sure it is secure: either put in locked box or physically hand 2 preparer. #IDTheftChat

RT @ITRCSD: That about wraps up today's #IDTheftChat! Does anyone have any other questions or anything to share?

Thanks for co-hosting, @ITRCSD! Great to get messages out about #TaxIDTheft. Remember, file early: <http://ftc.gov/taxidtheft>