

Tax Identity Fraud Response

March 18, 2014-*to be updated*

This information is provided for employees and volunteers responding to inquiries about tax identity fraud.

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

Actions taken to date

After learning of the problem, the archdiocese:

- Notified the IRS and FBI and hired a private security firm to investigate.
- Created a tax fraud resource site on the archdiocesan [website](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org) (www.seattlearchdiocese.org) to provide information about steps that can be taken.

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 ask all employees and volunteers who contact you to monitor the archdiocesan [website](http://www.Seattlearchdiocese.org) (www.Seattlearchdiocese.org) for information.

Provide the following information to everyone who inquires about this matter:

- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490, Ext. 245

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.
- Contact Equifax, a credit bureau, online at Equifax.com and click on “Request a Fraud Alert” at the bottom of the page.
- Send an email to 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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