



Types of IRS Letters and Notices That May Indicate Taxpayer Identity Theft

Receiving one of the following types of **letters** from the IRS. Letters from the IRS will have a letter number in the upper right-hand corner. These identifiers indicate the type of correspondence you are receiving. If you have not filed a return and receive any of the following letters, this would mean someone has filed a fraudulent return using your identity and you should contact us and the IRS immediately.

- a. **LTR 5071C** - This letter is informing the taxpayer a return has been received and the IRS needs the taxpayer to go online or contact the IRS by phone and verify validity of the return received.
- b. **LTR 4883C** - This letter goes out to taxpayers when the IRS receives a return it feels is incomplete or where they feel they need more information to complete the return. If you have filed a return, you may just need to verify the validity or provide additional information.
- c. **LTR 5747C** - This letter informs a taxpayer they need to appear in an IRS office, provide proof of identity and confirm the validity of the tax return filed. **If you have not** filed a return and receive this letter, contact us immediately. The IRS will waive the requirement to appear if you are a victim of identity theft. The agent specifically told us today that the last thing he wants to have happen is for taxpayers to unnecessarily go to an IRS office with the current state of the Coronavirus.
- d. **LTR 12C** - This letter is asking the taxpayer to submit missing information so the IRS can complete the processing of a tax return. The IRS may ask for supporting schedule or documents for items reported in the return. In this case the IRS is not questioning the validity of the return, just the completeness of the information provided.

- e. **LTR 861C** – This letter is informing the taxpayer that it received a Form 8821, Tax Information Authorization, that it cannot complete. An 8821 is an authorization form allowing another individual or entity to contact the IRS and have access to tax return data. These are most commonly used by banks and lending companies to verify income levels when a taxpayer is trying to obtain credit. With identity theft, the fraudsters are attempting to gain as much real information as possible, to include on a fraudulent return to make the return look as legitimate as possible. Many times, the 8821 forms submitted are incomplete, therefore the IRS will not process them and the letter you receive is informing you the request was denied.

- f. **LTR 4281C** – This letter is informing the taxpayer that a Form 8821 was submitted, and the IRS released taxpayer information to someone that was not authorized by you to receive it. We have seen 8821 forms filed by fraudsters on behalf of other CPAs. The CPA, whose credentials have been used, is a victim of identity theft also.

Receiving a **notice** from the IRS regarding your tax return that contradicts the return filed or when you have not filed a return. The following notices **should not be ignored** if received. If you receive one of these notices and it does not agree with your records or if you have not filed a return, **contact our office and the IRS immediately**.

- a. **Notice CP24** – This notice indicates the IRS has processed your tax return but is adjusting the amount of your refund. If you have not filed a return or were not due a refund, **please contact our office immediately**. If we know about this notice soon enough, we can alert our contacts with the IRS and they can stop the fraudulent refund before it gets into the hands of the fraudsters.

- b. **Notice CP25** – This notice alerts the taxpayer that the IRS has changed their return because the amounts in the IRS's system did not agree with the estimated tax payments reported on the return. This type of notice will indicate you are either not getting a refund or that you do not owe additional tax because your overall account balance is zero.

- c. **Notice CP23** – This notice alerts taxpayers they have an additional balance due with their return because the amount they reported as estimated tax payments did not agree with the amount the IRS had posted to your account.