



# THE LEGAL ADVISOR

*The official newsletter of Scranton Road Legal Clinic*



## Beware: Tax Scams!

by Sheila Fell, Esq.

If you *did not* file for unemployment this year, but have received one of the following documents, you might be the victim of fraud, and someone might have access to your Social Security Number. Watch out for:

- A 2020 1099-G tax form
- A U.S. Bank debit card for unemployment funds you were not expecting
- A notice/letter to create a temporary PIN for unemployment benefits as a way to monitor “your” unemployment payments
- Any correspondence from the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services about unemployment

Scammers are stealing identities and illegally claiming unemployment benefits under those identities. If you suspect fraud, we advise that you take the following steps:

- Report the unemployment identity theft at [unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov](https://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov), or call (833) 658-0394.
- Check your credit report at [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.AnnualCreditReport.com) or by calling 877-322-8228 and consider a credit freeze or fraud alert.
- Go to the IRS website and request a PIN for tax filing at [IRS.gov/IPPIN](https://IRS.gov/IPPIN) or make an appointment at your local Taxpayer Assistance Office by calling (216) 415-3442.

**Remember: the IRS will never e-mail your tax return, call you to demand payment without giving you written notice, ask for your credit card number over the phone, or threaten to arrest you.**

## 3 Tips to Avoid Identity Theft

by Natalie L. Thomas, Esq., Director

Here are a few tricks to help you to avoid being a victim of **Identity Theft**.

1. **Never purchase anything** from or provide financial information to **anyone who calls, emails, or visits you unannounced**. Even if a number seems like a local number do not provide financial or personal information. Tell them to send something in writing to the address they have on file (DON'T provide your address, name or phone #).
2. **Freeze your credit**. If you are not planning any big purchase you can freeze your credit for free and unfreeze it at any time by contacting any of the major credit bureaus.
3. **Protect account numbers and your mailbox**. Sign up for informed delivery through the USPS to see what mail is coming to you online before it arrives and watch that no one takes your mail, including family, that might have any account numbers in it. Visit USPS.com <https://informedelivery.usps.com/>

Over 90% of all reported elder abuse is committed by the older person's own family members, most often their adult children, followed by grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and others. This includes financial fraud. Do not isolate yourself or let others isolate you from other family members. Call us if you have any questions or concerns.

## UNUSUAL LAWS

### *Strange Laws Around the US*

- In Juneau, Alaska, flamingo owners are prohibited from bringing their pet into a Barber Shop.
- In Arkansas, it's against the law to honk a car horn at a sandwich shop after 9 pm.
- In Tennessee, it is Illegal to share your Netflix Password with others.



Formed in 2012, Scranton Road Legal Clinic educates and empowers our neighbors to make educated and prudent legal decisions, while providing the holistic support for the spiritual, emotional and relational problems that often accompany legal concerns. We offer brief advice via our brief advice telephone line at 216.861.5323 or via our online intake form at [www.scrantonroadministries.org/legal](http://www.scrantonroadministries.org/legal). Contact us today to discuss your legal need.