



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND IN OREGON

TAX IDENTITY FRAUD UPDATE July 2017

In May of 2017, a nationwide identity theft and IRS tax fraud scheme resulted in federal prison sentences. In the United States District Court, Medford, Oregon, defendants were found to have committed conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, wire fraud and mail fraud.

A Department of Justice release of this information may be read at - <https://www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/nationwide-identity-theft-and-irs-tax-fraud-scheme-results-federal-prison-sentences>.

In 2015, federal agents arrested five individuals in Georgia involved in tax identity fraud schemes. According to widely publicized reports, prosecutors charged them with filing false tax returns, fraud, conspiracy and other charges in a case now pending in United States District Court in Medford, Oregon (United States of America v. Emmanuel Oluwatosin Kazeem, et al, case number 1:15-CR-00172-AA). The F.B.I. press release related to this case, titled *Five Individuals Charged in Nationwide Identity Theft Scheme*, dated May 13, 2015, is linked for your information. <https://www.fbi.gov/portland/press-releases/2015/five-individuals-charged-in-nationwide-identity-theft-scheme>.

The government alleges that defendants are connected to the theft of personal information of approximately 125,000, including 38,000 Oregon residents. But even federal investigators are not entirely certain how the tax identity fraud data breaches were accomplished. Their investigation is ongoing.

The forensic experts hired by the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon did not find any evidence of a breach in the computer system maintained by the Archdiocese. Neither did the F.B.I. or I.R.S. notify the Archdiocese of a breach. The Archdiocese cooperated fully with F.B.I. investigators and State authorities. The State of Oregon closed its inquiry into the Archdiocese in this matter, satisfied with the Archdiocese's efforts to find out what happened and notify potentially affected individuals. For pastoral reasons, the Archdiocese previously offered two years credit monitoring to more than 1,000 persons affected by tax identity fraud schemes.

News reports indicate that, in January 2015, the F.B.I. informed CICS Employment Services (former background vendor for the Archdiocese) that there had been a breach in its computer system. The Archdiocese only learned of this fact through news reports; CICS did not notify the Archdiocese, a former business client. The Archdiocese does not know to which affected customers CICS sent notice of the breach. CICS is reported as stating: "We know it [the breach] occurred, but to this day we don't know when or how."



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

The Archdiocese does not have any information other than what is posted in this update.

For further background on the tax identity fraud situation for 2013 and 2014, please read the previously posted [FAQs](#).

If you are a victim of tax identity fraud, you may wish to consult the *Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft* provided by the Internal Revenue Service at: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/Taxpayer-Guide-to-Identity-Theft> and the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on reporting identity theft at: <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>.