



Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Division of Taxation

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SECURITY SUMMIT

ADVISORY FOR TAXPAYERS AND TAX PROFESSIONALS
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Families should make online safety a priority, Security Summit says

Be mindful when sharing devices at home, shopping online, and using social media

PROVIDENCE -- The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, the Internal Revenue Service, and other partners in the Security Summit remind families, teens, and senior citizens about the continued importance of protecting personal and financial information online.



During National Cybersecurity Month, the Security Summit asks parents, families, and others to be mindful of the pitfalls that can be found when sharing devices at home, shopping online, and navigating various social media platforms.

Those who are less experienced online can put themselves and others at risk by leaving an unnecessary trail of personal information for criminals.

The criminals use such information to set up fake accounts, steal money, and file fraudulent tax returns in your name.

Staying safe online

The Security Summit offers a few commonsense suggestions that can make a difference for children, teens, and other vulnerable groups:

- **Recognize and avoid scams.** Beware of the risks from phishing emails, threatening phone calls, and texts from thieves who claim to represent the IRS, the Rhode Island Division of Taxation, or other legitimate organizations. Don't click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.
- **Security is important.** Be careful not to reveal too much personal information. Keep data secure and provide only what is necessary to minimize online exposure to scammers and criminals. Do not freely share birth dates, addresses, age, or financial information such as bank account details and Social Security numbers.
- **Be careful of Wi-Fi networks.** Hackers and cybercriminals can easily intercept personal information. Always use a virtual private network when connecting to public Wi-Fi.
- **Use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections.** Make sure the security software is always turned on and can automatically update. Remember to encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on computers. Be sure all family members have comprehensive protection, especially if devices are being shared. Use strong, unique passwords for each account.

For more information

To learn more, please see the following links:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/phishing-identity-theft-and-scams>

<https://www.irs.gov/privacy-disclosure/report-phishing>

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5461.pdf>

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4524.pdf>



About the Security Summit

The Security Summit is made up of the IRS, state tax agencies, and the tax community -- including tax preparation firms, software developers, processors of payroll and tax financial products, tax professional organizations, and financial institutions. Partners in the Security Summit work together to combat identity theft and fight other scams to protect the nation's taxpayers. For more information: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/security-summit>.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. To learn more, see the agency's website: www.tax.ri.gov.