

February 23, 2012

To: Scott W. Storey  
District Attorney

And: The Colorado State  
Legislature

I retired from the State of Colorado in 2003; worked as an independent contractor and managed a yoga studio in 2004, 2005 and part of the year in 2006. My husband and I then moved to Arizona in 2006. I received a letter in August of 2011 stating that an income of \$82,189 had been reported for the year 2007 to the Colorado Department of Revenue and that I had not filed an income tax return. I would owe \$2,786 in taxes plus interest and penalties.

I immediately called the Department of Revenue and explained my situation. When the woman looked up my social security number she found different names and employers from 2005 to 2010. She suggested I call the Internal Revenue Service and report it right away; then call her back. The woman from the IRS said that there had been no other income reported to them with my social security number. I called the Social Security Office to report the problem and they said they did not care until I file for my social security income.

I called the Colorado Department of Revenue back and they cancelled their inquiry for the 2007 taxes. I asked her if she could cancel the rest of the years and she said she could not. I have to get the letters of inquiries from them first. I asked if she could give me the name of the latest person using my number and their employer and she did provide me with the information.

I called the company "Drywall Services, Inc." and asked if a Mr. Jose Navarro-Martinez worked there. The Human Resources person said he did and that he had provided them with a social security card and valid Identification. He asked his attorney to contact me because he did not know what to do under the circumstances. I asked if they checked the number with the name and he said they did not have to do that. The attorney called me back and said that they had no way of knowing that Mr. Navarro-Martinez was using anyone else's social security number. That is when I told him I would report it to the police.

I then began the task of checking all of the credit agencies and initiating a fraud alert. The whole ordeal was stressful and annoying. I have many questions: How was my social security number obtained? What was it used for besides employment? Why is it that difficult to check the number with the name electronically through the social security office? Why is the Internal Revenue Service not showing any reported income especially if companies have to report that information on a 1099 form? I also do not understand why the State of Colorado cannot close the account on all of the years of fraud that they reported to me.

I also understand the person using my social security number is being charged with Forgery instead of Identity Theft because there is a problem with the Identity Theft Law.

Please take the steps necessary to improve the language in the Law to protect law-abiding citizens from this modern day thievery.

Sincerely,

*Debra Stenson*