



Fraud of the Day Larry Benson

North Eastern States Tax Officials Association

### Fraud of the Day

### Agenda

- 1) What is Fraud of the Day (FOTD) and why was it created?
- 2) How to use FOTD
- 3) How does it apply to You?

#### Tax Refund Fraud

- How is it done
- Fraudsters Criteria
- The challenges for government stopping it
- Examples of found fraud
- How it can be stopped today.

### You can't detect fraud if you don't know about fraud.

WANTED

RANSOM MARION CARTER, III

LAST KNOWN DESIDENCE IN ARIZONA- PHOENIX

AGE: AS HEIGHT WIF WEIGHT SANCINS

Flocuted, please call United States Postel Impector James L. Wiber at 1-977-976-2455 ( Select Option 2 ).

All information will be kept strictly confidential

# Identity Thieves Filed for \$4 Million in Tax Refunds Using Names of Living and Dead

By Kim Zetter April 8, 2010 | 7:40 pm | Categories: Crime

A group of sophisticated identity thieves managed to steal millions of dollars by filing bogus tax returns using the names and Social Security numbers of other people, many of them deceased, according to a 74-count indictment unsealed in Arizona Thursday.

The thieves operated their scheme for at least three years from January 2005 to April 2008, allegedly filing more than 1,900 fraudulent tax returns involving about \$4 million in refunds directed to more than 170 bank accounts. The conspirators used numerous fake IDs to open internet and phone accounts, and also used more than 175 different IP addresses around the United States to file the fake returns, which were often filed in bulk as if through an automated process.

According to authorities a Californian, 29-year-old self-described hacker named Daniel David Rigmaiden, aka Steven Travis Brawner, was the ringleader of the group. He conspired with Ransom Marion Carter, III, 43 of Arizona and at least one other conspirator who was arrested in Utah in 2008 but has not been identified in court records.

Rigmaiden has been in custody since May 2008, but Carter is still at large. The two are charged with 35 counts of wire fraud, 35 counts of identify theft, one count of unauthorized computer access and two counts of mail fraud. Authorities are also seeking a monetary judgment in the amount of \$5.5 million.

Rigmaiden is representing himself after firing three attorneys, and could not be reached in prison for comment.

- Organized Crime
- 1,900 names and SSNs (some deceased)
- 2005-2008
- 170 Bank Accounts
- 175 Unique IP Addresses
- Automated Process

Not checking to see if they are alive???

The IRS allows taxpayers to file their returns electronically and obtain their refunds through direct deposit to a bank account or to a pre-paid debit card account, which lets them withdraw the funds from an ATM.

The scam took advantage of the IRS' quick turnaround in processing refunds for electronically filed returns. The IRS typically processes a refund request without verifying the taxpayer's information — such as whether the taxpayer is alive — or confirming that the taxpayer is legitimately owed money. The crooks just needed names and Social Security numbers of victims, which they acquired from various sources, and a company's name and tax-ID number to list as an employer.

#### Understand How to Fraud – Understand How to stop the Fraud

#### Prisoners getting benefits

#### County jails, State DOL to crack down on unemployment insurance fraud

MONTICELLO – The State Labor Department and county jails across the state are joining forces to crack down on inmates who fraudulently collect unemployment insurance benefits while behind bars.

The labor department has been doing the same with state prisoners and their friends or relatives who are filing the claims for benefits for them and Commissioner Colleen Gardner said they have begun doing the same on the county level in conjunction with the local sheriffs and the New York State Sheriff's Association.

#### No longer lived in jurisdiction

#### Nassau uncovers \$800,000 in welfare fraud

by John Callegari Published: March 30, 2011

Tags: fraud, Long Island, Medicaid, Nassau County, Ronkonkoma







Nassau County Department of Social Services investigators have uncovered three instances of individuals attempting to claim Medicaid funds they were not eligible for, totaling over \$800,000. The most egregious case of Medicaid fraud involved an applicant who was no longer lived in Nassau. The individual's girlfriend submitted paperwork that stated the applicant still lived in Nassau. ...

#### **Inmate Indicted for Tax Refund Scam**

Michael William Joseph, III, 53, an inmate at the Apalachee Correctional Institution in Sneads, Florida, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Tallahassee for his participation in a fraudulent income tax refund scheme involving prisoners. The indictment was announced today by Pamela C. Marsh, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

The indictment alleges that, beginning around January 2008, Joseph and others devised a scheme to file fraudulent tax returns using the names and social security numbers of inmates housed in the Florida Department of Corrections. As part of this scheme, the home address of Joseph's mother (Mom, she loves fraud too) and others were listed on the tax returns, so IRS refund checks would be mailed to them. As part of the scheme, businesses were listed as the purported employers of the fraudulent claimants, and the conspirators listed fraudulent wages and withholding amounts for time periods in which the inmates were incarcerated. The indictment alleges that, during the course of the scheme, the defendant and others filed and caused to be filed approximately eighty-four false and fraudulent federal income tax returns, which falsely claimed approximately \$179,349 in false, fictitious, and fraudulent refunds from the United States. A copy of the indictment is attached.

### Tampa street criminals steal millions by filing fraudulent tax returns

Tampa Postal Inspector looks over confiscated letters that contain IRS checks and debit cards.

### **Rain Parties**



- Drug Dealers Disappear
- Police find thousands of IRS
   Debit cards at traffic stops
- •Seize \$100M in Debit cards
- •Estimated to be 10% of the total
- "Thousands of names and SSNs"

# \$100 Million in checks and debit cards seized in Tampa



### Tax Refund Fraud Criteria - FOTD

- Access to SSNs and Personal Information.
- Prisons and prisoners are an issue
- Deceased keep coming back to life
- Technology Requirements
  - •Internet
  - Turbo Tax
  - Multiple IP Addresses (apartments)
- Payments
  - Direct Deposit = Controlled bank account
  - Debit Card = Controlled address
- A low probability of being caught
- Lucrative

### Where Do Identities Get Stolen?





Dumpster Diving for Mail? - seldom

### **Access to SSNs and Personal Information**

It is very easy to steal an identity - they are everywhere and unguarded:

- Doctor's Offices
- Dentist Offices
- Rental Applications
- Job Applications
- Car Dealerships
- Schools
- Ancestry Websites







# Sought After SSNs

- •Kids
- Deceased
- Severely Handicapped
- •Elderly in Retirement Homes
- Puerto Rican Identities

•Never do what with your SSN?

### LifeLock CEO's Identity Stolen 13 Times



### Little known SSN Facts – From the Social Security Administration

Social Security <u>cards printed from January 1946 until January 1972 expressly stated the number and card were not to be used for identification purposes. [12] Since nearly everyone in the United States now has a number, it became convenient to use it anyway and the message was removed. [13] The SSN card is still not suitable for primary identification as it has no photograph, no physical description and no birth date. All it does is confirm that a particular number has been issued to a particular name.</u>

Identity confusion has also occurred due to the use of local Social Security

Numbers by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall

Islands and the Republic of Palau, whose numbers overlap with those of residents of New Hampshire and Maine. [22]

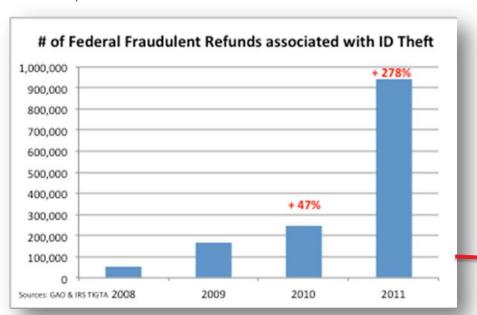
### Identity Theft is an Epidemic – That is Just the Thefts They Know About

#### **Identity Theft Statistics\***

#### **Most Common Forms of Reported Identity Theft:**

- Government benefits & documents fraud (19%)
- Credit card fraud (15%)
- Phone or utilities fraud (14%)
- Employment fraud (11%)
- Bank fraud (10%)
- Loan fraud (4%)

\* FTC Complaint Data 2010



**Increased 4% since 2008** 

# Identity thieves could rake in \$26 billion in tax refunds

By Scott Zamost, CNN updated 2:56 PM EDT, Tue May 8



(CNN) -- Criminals who file fraudulent tax returns by stealing people's identities could rake in an estimated \$26 billion over the next five years because the IRS cannot keep up with the amount of the fraud, Treasury Inspector General J. Russell George said Tuesday.

"Our analysis found that, although the IRS detects and prevents a large number of fraudulent refunds based on false income documents, there is much fraud that it does not detect," said George's prepared testimony before a joint hearing of the House Ways and Means

Subcommittees on Oversight and Social Security

Last year, according to the Treaser's inspector General's Office, the IRS reported that of the 2.2 million tax returns it toung to one module it, about 940,000 returns totaling \$6.5 billion were related to identity theft. In its investigation, George said, auditors found another 1.5 million undetected tax returns with more than \$5.2 billion in fraud.

### The challenges of stopping Tax Refund Fraud

Pressure to issue refunds quickly

Self Reported Data

**Boundary Blindness** 

Identity verification is new

- Naming conventions
- SSN modifications

Monitoring for duplicate IP Addresses

### Name Variations

- 1. Elizabeth Tammy Baker
- 2. Elizabeth T. Baker
- 3. E. Baker
- 4. E.T. Baker
- 5. Lizz Baker
- 6. Lizz T. Baker
- 7. Lizz Tammy Baker
- 8. Tammy Baker
- 9. T Baker
- 10. Beth Baker
- 11. B. T. Baker
- 12. B. Baker
- 13. Beth T. Baker
- 14. Beth Tammy Baker

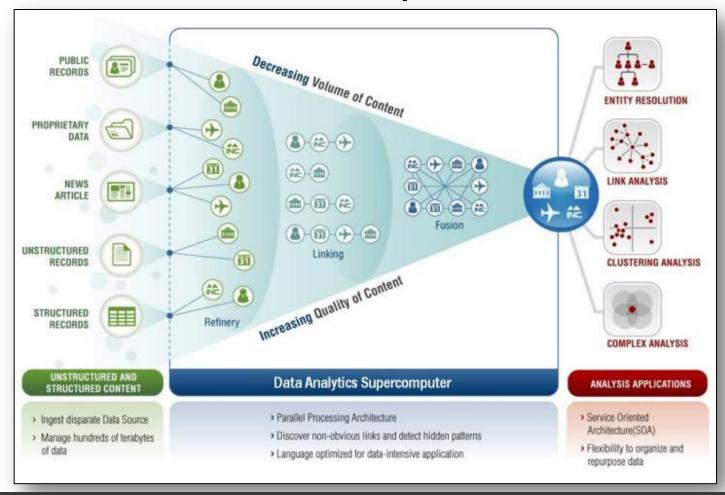
- 1. Elizabeth Tammy Young
- 2. Elizabeth T. Young
- 3. E. Young
- 4. E.T. Young
- 5. Lizz Young
- 6. Lizz T. Young
- 7. Lizz Tammy Young
- 8. Tammy Young
- 9. T. Young
- 10. Beth Young
- 11. B.T. Young
- 12. B. Young
- 13. Beth T. Young
- 14. Beth Tammy Young

### Name Variations with Creative SSNs

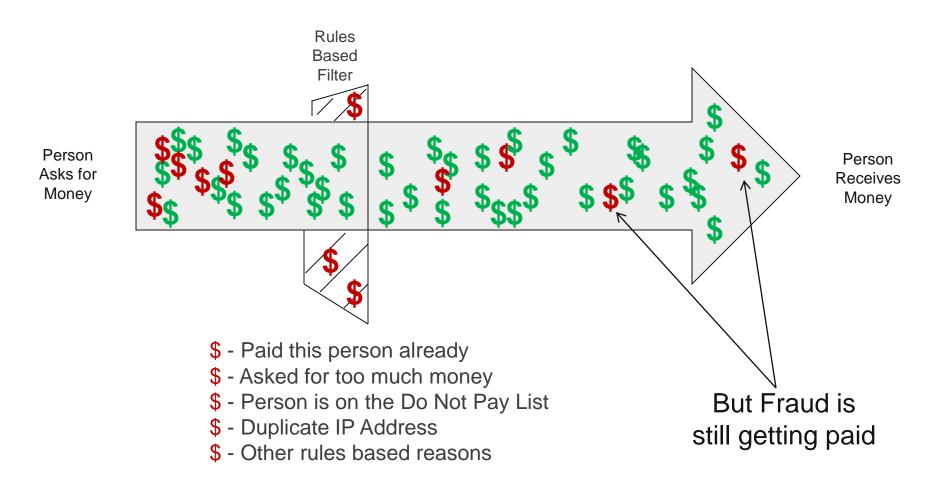
1.	Elizabeth Tammy Baker	137-40-9722
2.	Elizabeth T. Baker	139-40-9722
3.	E. Baker	137-48-9722
4.	E.T. Baker	137-40-7722
5.	Lizz Baker	137-40-9902
6.	Lizz T. Baker	137-40-9720
7.	Lizz Tammy Baker	187-40-9722
8.	Tammy Baker	132-40-9722
9.	T Baker	133-40-9722
10.	Beth Baker	137-80-9722
11.	B. T. Baker	137-40-3722
12.	B. Baker	137-40-2722
13.	Beth T. Baker	137-40-9322
14.	Beth Tammy Baker	137-40-9792

### Why Public Records?

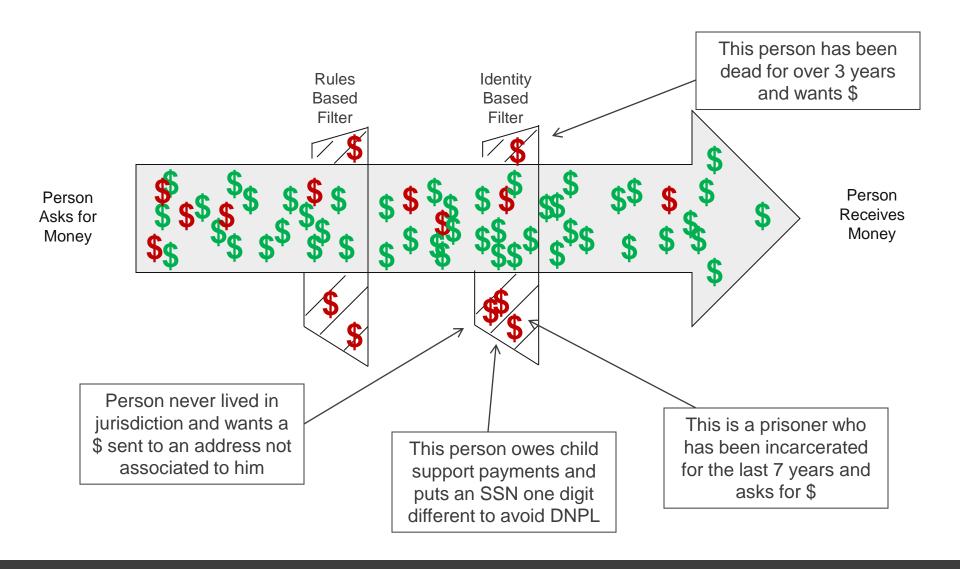
- Verify Identities and Self Reported Data
- Eliminate Boundary Blindness



### Typical Government Fraud Prevention – Rules Based



### Rules Based Plus Identity Based Fraud Filter



### **New Deceased Fraud Ring**

tin	name	address	Refund Amount
154-XX-XXXX	ROLLY F.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 101	-5722
163-XX-XXXX	SHAWN L.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 102	-9776
187-XX-XXXX	MADGE L.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 103	-5036
198-XX-XXXX	DOUG L.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 104	-9004
331-XX-XXXX	ELI E.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 105	2304
338-XX-XXXX	JOADY D.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 106	-9046
344-XX-XXXX	NATHAN B.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 107	-9004
341-XX-XXXX	GREG D.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 108	-9991
342-XX-XXXX	ROBERTA F.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 109	-8879
654-XX-XXXX	DORIS H.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 110	-9991 V
658-XX-XXXX	CARLY L.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 111	-9776
668-XX-XXXX	BETTY C.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 112	-8879
779-XX-XXXX	GERRY H.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 113	-5626
779-XX-XXXX	JULIANNA J.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 114	-2690
788-XX-XXXX	PAULIANNA A.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 115	-7533
798-XX-XXXX	BERRY M.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 116	-2382
805-XX-XXXX	HARMONY B.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 117	-9046
812-XX-XXXX	RANDY T.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 118	-999i
818-XX-XXXX	REBA S.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 119	-9004
828-XX-XXXX	DARLA C.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 120	-8879
842-XX-XXXX	IRIS M.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 121	-8879
908-XX-XXXX	EDDIE J.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 122	2800
919-XX-XXXX	LILLIANNA T.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 123	-9776
918-XX-XXXX	LARRY D.	121 PERDUE AVE STE 124	-9776

All data has been altered for privacy reasons but is consistent to the actual network of fraud

2,305 people died in the same year at same address for similar refund amounts – highly improbable.





Address is actually a mailbox store

LexisNexis flagged these refunds as newly deceased and not seen at input address and the best address is Out-of-State.

The fraudster made a mailbox store look like an apartment building using one address with different Apt numbers for \$16,674,911 in refunds.

### **Paying Prisoners**

T	D - f I	- d-l		1.1
+	Refund	address	name	tin
	(6,779)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	WENDELL A.	398-XX-XXXX
•	(1,378)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	BRANDY D.	623-XX-XXXX
	(1,356)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	FRANKIE R.	208-XX-XXXX
	(1,353)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	GERALD H.	571-XX-XXXX
F	(1,342)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	DENNY T.	578-XX-XXXX
<	(1,342)	121 PERDUE AVE	FREDERICK R.	620-XX-XXXX
L	(1,339)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	BEAU K.	615-XX-XXXX
Ī	(1,312)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 320	ERNIE L.	617-XX-XXXX
	(1,250)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	ROBERTA P.	620-XX-XXXX
	(1,063)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	DEMI R.	148-XX-XXXX
	(1,055)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 105	LARRY W.	617-XX-XXXX
	(1,019)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	BERTIE D.	622-XX-XXXX
	(1,017)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	MARCUS T.	615-XX-XXXX
	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	ANDREA H.	616-XX-XXXX
١	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	NOLA C.	116-XX-XXXX
1	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	JEBEDIAH T.	615-XX-XXXX
	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	ADDIE B.	618-XX-XXXX
	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	JOSEPHA H.	881-XX-XXXX
	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	RICHARD G.	621-XX-XXXX
	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	DAMON S.	616-XX-XXXX
1	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	BOBBIE F.	384-XX-XXXX
/	(1,016)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	KENNETH T.	619-XX-XXXX
	(1,015)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	KENDELL C.	622-XX-XXXX
	(1,014)	121 PERDUE AVE APT 319	MERRELL T.	621-XX-XXXX

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Prisoner not seen at address (yellow)

Non-Prisoner not seen at address

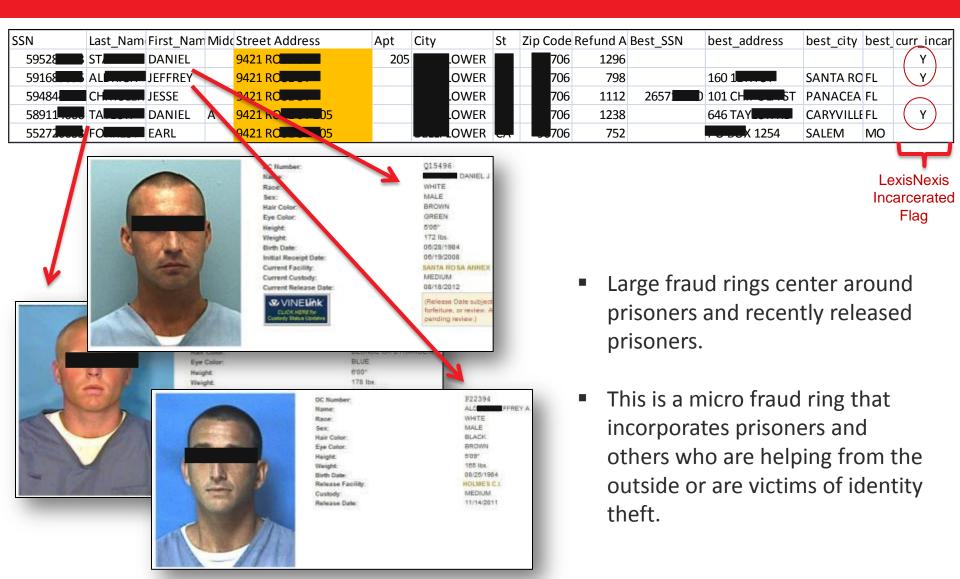
30 of the 98 suspicious payment requests for \$106,420 were for prisoners (highlighted in yellow)



All of the 98 suspicious payment requests were to an address that the identities were not associated with – in this case it is a <u>retirement village</u>.

Refund amounts are the same which is statistically improbable

# Prisoners are Asking for Tax Refunds that Do Not Live in Your State ... and Never Have



### Is the Address Presented Associated with the Identity

# 118 of the total 158 payment requests coming from this apartment building are suspicious – but which ones?

tin	name	address	Refund	Bad Apartment Number
566-XX-XXXX	HARIETT L.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 157A	(\$6,066)	YES
810-XX-XXXX	ONHO R.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 313D	(\$5,855)	YES
836-XX-XXXX	GEERY R.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 318C	(\$5,926)	YES
839-XX-XXXX	LORILIE L.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 426	(\$1,254)	NO
830-XX-XXXX	MICHEAL L.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 255	(\$142)	NO
845-XX-XXXX	ROBERT F.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 460	(\$4,988)	NO
853-XX-XXXX	CRAIG M.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 156B	(\$6,251)	YES
909-XX-XXXX	JOSEPH V.	1921 AVENTURA DRV	(\$6,157)	NO
923-XX-XXXX	ANDREW A.	1921 AVENTURA DRV 139	(\$4,930)	NO
929-XX-XXXX	LOUIS G.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 158	(\$6,868)	NO
115-XX-XXXX	DARRELL K.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 311	(\$6,541)	YES
546-XX-XXXX	ANNA S.	1921 AVENTURA DRV 423	(\$8,752)	NO
207-XX-XXXX	KRISTY H.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 251F	(\$6,534)	YES
349-XX-XXXX	CINDY L.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 279H	(\$6,160)	YES
730-XX-XXXX	BENFRED A.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 275A	(\$1,875)	YES
789-XX-XXXX	CHRISTY D.	1921 AVENTURA DRV 458	(\$3,055)	NO
820-XX-XXXX	ANDREA M.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 156C	(\$6,350)	YES
831-XX-XXXX	MARISIO S.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 914	(\$6,224)	YES
847-XX-XXXX	RAMONE T.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 280G	(\$6,170)	YES
852-XX-XXXX	GEORGE R.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 260E	(\$6,040)	YES
855-XX-XXXX	MARK P.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 336E	(\$6,424)	YES
859-XX-XXXX	PEGGY H.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 251	(\$6,500)	YES
861-XX-XXXX	MARC L.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 275H	(\$6,414)	YES
922-XX-XXXX	TIMOTHY Y.	1921 AVENTURA DRV APT 321G	(\$618)	YES

All data has been altered for privacy reasons but is consistent to the actual network of fraud

Address exists but not apartment number

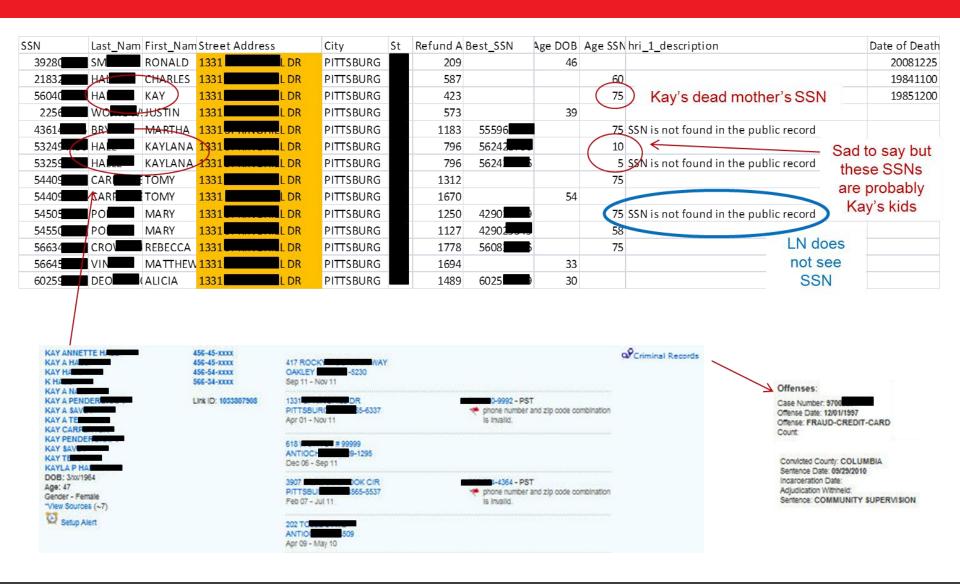
- Address and apartment number exist in public records



Apartment
Building with
good
payments
and
fraudulent
payments

LexisNexis has learned from experience that false positives can diminishes the value of the solution. In this case, combining the logic with our know-how in fraud detection helps us identify the invalid apartment numbers within the valid address.

### Identity and Eligibility in the Same Fraud Ring



### Basic verifiable Identity Information

- •Is that Taxpayer alive?
- •In prison?
- •Is this a real address?
- •a prison, halfway house, church or school?
  - 35 Apalachee Drive
     Sneads, Florida 32460-4166
- •Do they really live in that state?
- •Is the taxpayer associated with that Address?
- •Does the name match the name associated with the SSN?
- •Is the SSN issued?
- •What is the estimated age of the taxpayer? Too young/old?

### The Solution

- Become educated on government fraud Sign up for FOTD
- Verify self reported data
- Eliminate boundary blindness with public records

#### Offer:

Lexis will run 2010 or 2011 data, at no cost, and return

- 1)Percent Deceased, with examples
- 2)Percent Incarcerated, with examples
- 3)Percent questionable identities, with examples
- 4)Percent questionable addresses, with examples

## What Did you learn about Tax Refund Fraud??