



**SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
LEGAL SERVICES**
Free Legal Aid for Low-Income People

**WEBSITE: WWW.SLLS.ORG
PHONE: (504) 529-1000**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR TAX RETURN?



Some tax preparers commit tax return fraud by changing the income on your tax return without your knowledge. Here are some tips to protect yourself:

- ☐ Choose a tax preparer carefully! The VITA in New Orleans program offers free, trustworthy tax prep help. Call 2-1-1 and ask for VITA locations.
- ☐ Before you choose a preparer, find out about his or her experience or qualifications.
- ☐ Watch out for scams! Avoid preparers who base their fee on the amount of your refund.
- ☐ Download an app on your phone to audio record your session with your preparer.
- ☐ Make sure your preparer signs your tax return and includes a PTIN (Preparer Tax Identification Number).
- ☐ Get a complete copy of your tax return before you leave your tax preparer.
- ☐ Do not give your original documents to the preparer! Keep copies of all documents you give to your preparer.
- ☐ Review your tax return before your preparer files it. If you have any questions, ask your tax preparer. If you need assistance, bring someone who can go over it with you.
- ☐ Filing incorrect tax returns can affect your food stamps, housing and benefits.



REMEMBER:

You are responsible for what goes on your tax return even if someone else prepares your tax return!

If you need legal assistance, you may qualify for free legal assistance at:

**Southeast Louisiana Legal Services - 1340 Poydras St. Suite 600, New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone: (504) 529-1000**