

— MAKE — **TAX MATTERS** YOUR PRIORITY #1

Your Tax matters, so does your time.

Personal Income Tax Fraud



What Is Fraud?

Tax fraud is when individuals or businesses pay less tax than they owe by giving SARS inaccurate information on their tax returns.

One way that fraudsters cheat on their tax returns is “under-declaration of income”. Under-declaration means that taxpayers do not report all or part of their income to SARS. It is tax fraud to hide cash transactions, omit sources of income, falsify invoices or receipts, and use offshore accounts or entities to hide income.

Another form of tax fraud is to claim false deductions or expenses when submitting tax returns. This means that a taxpayer inflates or makes up expenses or deductions to lower taxable income and pay less tax. A fraudulent deduction claim will overstate business or medical expenses, claim personal expenses as business expenses, claim false donations or losses, or use fake or altered documents to support the claims.

Avoid Being a Victim of Tax Fraud!

Individual filing season is when taxpayers fall victim to tax fraud. Sometimes they are not aware that tax fraud is committed on their eFiling accounts.

Protect yourself from tax fraud:

- **DO NOT** share your SARS log-in name and password with anyone. If you have forgotten your log-in details, go to the eFiling website (www.sarsefiling.co.za) and click on “Forgot Password”. If your cellphone number has changed, you can book an appointment online.
- **SARS DOES NOT** charge for services provided by our officials.
- Request identification from a SARS official.
- If you think that you have been affected by a scam or tax fraud, call the SARS Contact Centre on 0800 00 7277.

Dealing with Tax Fraud

To curb tax fraud, SARS uses audits and investigations to:

- Correct inaccurate assessments.
- Interview taxpayers who have come forward.
- Prosecute all tax offenders.
- Impose penalties and recoup all refunds SARS paid because of false information.

How to Report Tax Crime and Fraud

Report suspicious activity immediately. Use the SARS hotline 0800 00 2870 and visit <https://secure.sarsefiling.co.za/AdHocCaseSourcing> to alert us of potential fraud.

