

Beware of Scam Phone Calls and E-mails

Tax scams that pretend to be notices or calls from the IRS are something to be wary of and to be reported to the tax preparer or IRS. **Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.**

These scams take many different forms. The most common scams are phone calls and emails from thieves who pretend to be from the IRS.

Scammers use the IRS name, logo or a fake website to try and steal money from taxpayers. Identity theft can also happen with these scams.

Phone calls or automated messages from someone who claims to be from the IRS are part of a scam by criminals. These criminals may say that the taxpayer owes money and possibly demand payment right away.

Other scammers may lie to taxpayers and say they are due a refund. The thieves ask for bank account information over the phone or personal information through an email. Do not to fall for these scams.

Below are several tips that will help a filer avoid becoming a scam victim.

IRS employees will **NOT**:

- Call demanding immediate payment. The IRS will not call a taxpayer if they owe tax without first sending a bill in the mail.
- Demand payment without allowing the taxpayer to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Require the taxpayer to pay their taxes a certain way such as using a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to contact local police or similar agencies to arrest the taxpayer for non-payment of taxes.
- Threaten legal action such as a lawsuit.