



It's Tax Season Again!

File your Taxes Before Scammers Do It For You!

Tax season is fast approaching, to protect yourself against tax fraud, we recommend you file your taxes as soon as possible to minimize the chances of getting hit by tax refund fraud this year. Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security Number to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. Unfortunately victims usually learn of the crime after having their tax returns rejected, because scammers beat them to it. In addition, remember this is the time of year when cyber criminals will try to scam you with tax based attacks. Tax season also is when the phone, email, and text message tax scams kick into high gear.

This may be a good time to remind your family and friends about the IRS scams and other phone-based scams. Many taxpayers have encountered individuals impersonating IRS officials – in person, over the telephone and via email. Don't get scammed. The IRS initiates most contacts through regular mail delivered by the United States Postal Service.

Note that the IRS DOES NOT

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe. You should also be advised of your rights as a taxpayer.
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law-enforcement to have you arrested for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke your driver's license, business licenses, or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

Please view our website for the [most common tax season scams](#).

TIPS to Protect Yourself

- Never send your income tax return using public Wi-Fi.
- Use strong passwords and 2 factor authentication when using tax software online.
- Ignore or delete any emails that request personal information from anyone purporting to be from the IRS.
- Do not click on links or download attachments in emails from anyone claiming to be from the IRS.
- Do not engage in telephone calls from someone claiming to be from the IRS.