



TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS



Promoting Integrity in America's Tax System

Internal Revenue Service Impersonation Scam

How Does the Scam Work?

Criminals call intended victims and claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The scammers tell the intended victims that they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card, money order, wire transfer, or gift card. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with being charged with a criminal violation, a grand jury indictment, immediate arrest, deportation, or loss of a business or driver's license. The scammers who commit this fraud often:



- Utilize a robocall machine to make unsolicited calls via Voice Over Internet Protocol technology to make it appear that the calls originate in the U.S.
- This technique, also known as "spoofing," can make the calls appear to be from the IRS or even a local police department.
- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- May know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security Number.
- Aggressively demand immediate payment to avoid being criminally charged or arrested.
- Claim that hanging up the telephone will cause the immediate issuance of an arrest warrant for unpaid taxes.
- Send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam.
- Call a second or third time claiming to be the police or other government entity.

The IRS Will Never:

- Ask for payment via prepaid debit cards, money orders, or wire transfers.
- Ask for credit card numbers over the telephone.
- Request personal or financial information by e-mail, text, or via any social media.

What can I do?

- Do not engage with the callers, just hang up.
- Tell everyone that if you receive a call and think you owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.
- Retain their original scam-related documentation: method of payment, receipts, notes, and telephone numbers used by the scammer. In the case of pre-paid cards, it is especially important to retain all card numbers.
- Immediately notify the company associated with the payment method, in an effort to stop or reverse funds.
- Be aware the IRS does employ non-law enforcement revenue officers and revenue agents who conduct field visits and will have official IRS credentials.
- Share this information with friends and family.

File a Report – Help us #SlamTheScam:

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Telephone: 1-800-366-4484
Fax: 1-202-927-7018
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