

BEWARE OF IRS TELEPHONE SCAMS

Over the past several weeks, we have spoken with many individuals who have received threatening phone calls from the “IRS”. This is a widespread scam that is becoming more prevalent. It is more important than ever to be diligent and protect your personal information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

RECOGNIZING THE SCAM:

The caller will identify themselves as an IRS agent, and possibly provide a phony IRS badge number. The caller may demand immediate payment of back taxes, ask for a credit card number over the phone, threaten a lawsuit or arrest for failure to comply, or may indicate that they have your tax return, and just need to verify a few details in order to complete processing. These con artists can be very convincing, and may even alter their caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. You may also receive emails related to refunds, filing status, or emails asking you to confirm personal information.

THINGS THE REAL IRS WILL NEVER DO:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you or email you about taxes owed. They will only communicate via notices through the mail.
- Email you with a request for personal information, a request for payment, or send an email containing any attachments.
- Demand that you pay taxes without allowing you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay taxes in a certain way - for example, with a pre-paid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card information over the phone.
- Threaten to involve police or other agencies to arrest you.

IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS PHONE CALL:

- DO NOT: engage - hang up immediately.
- DO NOT: provide any personal information, including, but not limited to, your social security number or any financial account information.
- DO: report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484 or use the “[IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting](#)” assistant. You can also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their “[FTC Complaint Assistant](#)”, citing “IRS Telephone Scam” in the comments section.
- DO: contact the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040 to inquire about any tax balances owed, or visit the [IRS website](#) for more information.
- DO: contact us if you have any questions, or need assistance. We’re happy to help!

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IRS CIRCULAR 230 DISCLOSURE: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing, or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.