

IRS Tax Scams

IRS tax scams are most frequently perpetrated by scammers calling tax payers claiming to be an IRS official. The callers often use IRS titles and provide fake badge numbers to make themselves appear more legitimate. They claim that the tax payer owes back taxes and threaten the victim with arrest, court action and wage garnishment unless the victim immediately wires funds or provides a prepaid debit card.

There are tax payers can take now to avoid falling victim to a IRS scam. Before filling taxes consider these tips:

- Do not automatically trust the number listed on caller ID. Scammers can spoof the caller ID to make it appear as if the IRS, Attorney General's Office or another agency is calling;
- Know that the IRS will only initiate contact by mail. The IRS will also allow questions or appeal the amount owed; they will never demand immediate payment without allowing you to substantiate the amount owed. Should you receive a letter that appears to be from the IRS, verify online that the number listed in the letter is in fact a number associated with the IRS;
- Contact the IRS directly. Call the IRS at 800-829-1040 or go to www.irs.gov;
- Know that the IRS, the Attorney General's Office, the State Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies and financial institutions will never call and demand immediate payment via wire, prepaid debit card or a gift card, nor will they threaten to immediately make an arrest;
- Just hang up. If solicited by someone asking for personal information, such as your bank account number, Social Security number or requesting wire payment or a prepaid debit card, hang up the phone; and,
- File tax return as early as possible. Procrastinating may increase risk of IRS tax scams.