

News & Views

Scams, Scams and more Scams

Today's Scam "The IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam"

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers and "robo-callers" claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not.

These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer.

If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

This next section is Important

The IRS **will never**:

- 1) Call or e-mail to demand immediate payment, the agency will not call or e-mail about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- 2) Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- 3) Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- 4) Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- 5) Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you are not currently corresponding with the IRS and you get a call or email from someone claiming to be from the IRS, do not respond. Call me and let me know.

Visit the IRS tax scam website at www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts for more information