



IRS Imposter Scams



Scenarios

Scam artists claiming to work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) contact unsuspecting Americans to tell them they owe the government money. They may reach out by phone, email, postal mail or text messages. Typically, they will present one of the following two scenarios:

- **Taxes** – They will tell you that you owe taxes and demand that you pay right away. They'll usually require payment through a wire transfer, a prepaid debit or gift card. Often, the criminals will threaten to bring in law enforcement to arrest and/or deport you.
- **Information Verification** – The scammer will send you an email or text message that asks you to confirm or authenticate your personal information. The messages often include a link to click or another feature that connects you to a fraudulent form or website.

Don't Be a Victim

- Be wary of anyone claiming to be from the IRS. The IRS will always contact you via postal mail before making a call about unpaid taxes.
- The IRS won't threaten to arrest you for not paying a bill.
- If the IRS does actually contact you, they will offer you time to submit an appeal.
- Scammers can spoof your caller ID and change the name that appears on your phone, so don't trust the caller just because it shows up as "IRS."
- If you think you owe back taxes, you can check with the IRS by calling 1 (800) 829-1040.

Report the Scam

If you think you have been scammed, report the incident to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.

