

IRS Phone Scams – Stay Alert

by Jenna Welborn

The IRS continues to warn taxpayers to guard against scam phone calls. These scams are intended to steal your money, your identity or both. Many taxpayers have encountered individuals impersonating IRS officials. Here are a few tips to help you understand how and when the IRS contacts taxpayers.

- The IRS initiates most contacts through regular mail.
- There are circumstances that the IRS will call or come to your home or business, such as when a taxpayer has an overdue bill, a delinquent tax return or payment, or as part of an audit. Even when this happens, the taxpayer will first receive several notices from the IRS in the mail regarding the matter. When and if an IRS representative visits, they will provide two official forms of credentials to verify identity.
- Note that the IRS does not
 - o Call and demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a notice.
 - o Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
 - o Require that you pay your taxes in a certain way, for example, require that you pay on prepaid debit card.
 - o Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
 - o Threaten to bring police or other law enforcement to have you arrested for not paying. The IRS also can't revoke your driver's license, business licenses, or immigration status. Threats are common tactics used to trick victims.

If you don't believe you owe the IRS and receive one of these calls, don't give out any information. Any IRS correspondence that do receive, remember to ALWAYS send to us for review.

If you have questions on this or any other tax matter, please let our tax team know and we would be glad to assist you.

Thanks,

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