

# My Personal IRS Scam phone call

*by Jenna Welborn*

We hear from clients every year who have received phone calls from a scammer trying to impersonate an IRS agent or a recording saying to contact them immediately. Recently I received a similar phone call myself. On this call I was told there were problems with my recent tax return filing, and I was subject to criminal investigation from the US Treasury. During the call I was given a number to call them immediately, and if I didn't the local cops would come to take me into custody.

With the increasing number of scammers, please stay vigilant so you don't fall victim to these scams. 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 you do receive, remember to ALWAYS send to us for review before taking any action.

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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Income Tax Preparer

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