

IRS WARNINGS REGARDING LATEST SCAMS

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IRS scams are abundant and there continues to be new scams popping up using telephone calls and email communication. Here are some of the more recent varieties of scams:

- Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals continue to be a major threat to taxpayers. IRS imposters call and tell victims that they owe money to the IRS. Sometimes the imposter will say that they are with the Department of Revenue. These criminals can even change the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told that they must make immediate payment using a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer and, if they refuse, are threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of business license or driver's license.
- A new email scam has recently emerged. The email appears to come from the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel and indicates that the taxpayer may have a refund coming. The goal is to trick the taxpayer into giving them personal tax information. If you receive any suspicious emails, please forward them to phishing@irs.gov.
- Another phone scam has appeared now that the 2016 filing season is over. The caller says that they are verifying information on your tax return in order to complete the processing. The goal is to get you to give up personal information such as your social security number or bank information.
- There is also a W-2 scam targeting payroll and human resource professionals which involves sending them an email requesting personal data on employees.
- And, the latest scam warning was issued by the IRS on May 27. IRS impersonators are calling to demand payment for Federal Student Tax. This tax does not exist but the callers are threatening the taxpayer with arrest if payment is not made immediately. Sometimes the student is told that they must make payment on an iTunes gift card.



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Just keep in mind that the IRS will never call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call without first mailing out a notice. The IRS will not demand a specific payment method or threaten to bring in the police.

Taxpayers must be alert and not fall victim to these scams. You can check the IRS website at irs.gov for ways to report scam attempts if you are contacted.

Reference: www.irs.gov