

These scammers want to extract your financial data from you or get you to send them money under the guise of being the IRS, another tax related agency, or a firm who can save you. I myself received a robo call the other day (and again as I write this!) saying the IRS is filing a law suit against me for taxes owed. I immediately know that's a scam as **1)** I know for a fact my tax affairs are in order, and **2)** the IRS does not file law suits against taxpayers! I did report this as per instructions below.



However, to the average person, such news strikes fear in their hearts before their brain can kick into gear. It's a normal human, automatic reaction. People will panic and return the call to the scammer, and the scammer works their magic to relieve the poor taxpayer of their money. They are very artful and convincing. They are professional scammers. Robbery on the highways of the web!

### **The IRS Will Never:**

- Call to demand immediate payment over the phone, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money and you don't owe taxes, here's what you should do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "[IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting](#)" web page or call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "[FTC Complaint Assistant](#)" on [FTC.gov](#). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.
- If you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040.

### **Avoid e-mail phishing attempts**

There has been a surge in e-mail scams this year that appear to be from a tax agency or a tax software company.

Never reply to emails, texts or pop-up messages asking for your personal, tax or financial information. One common trick by criminals is to impersonate a business such as your financial institution, tax software provider or the IRS, asking you to update your account and providing a link. For small business, these schemes may try impersonating

a company lender and request payroll and human resource information for employees in your company. Never click on links even if they seem to be from organizations you trust. Go directly to the organization's website. Some phishers may have a couple tidbits of your personal data (the kind often easily available publicly) to trick you into believing the scammer is legit. Then they will try to extract additional pieces of data from you and before you know it, you may have given it all away. Don't fall for it. These scammers are very convincing. They are professional scammers.

And . . . if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you see an email that says 'You won a free cruise' or 'The IRS has a refund waiting for you,' odds are very high that it is a phishing attempt looking to get your personal information.

If you get a 'phishing' email, remember this important advice:

- Don't reply to the message.
- Don't give out your personal or financial information.
- Forward the email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Then delete it.
- Don't open any attachments or click on any links. They may have malicious code that will infect your computer. PDF and zip file attachments can be especially malicious.

More information on how to [report phishing or phone scams](#) is available on IRS.gov.

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