Report Phishing and Online Scams

The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information. This includes requests for PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

Phishing is a scam typically carried out through unsolicited email and/or websites that pose as legitimate sites and lure unsuspecting victims to provide personal and financial information.

What to do if you receive a suspicious IRS-related communication?

1. If you receive an **email** claiming to be from the IRS that contains a request for personal information, taxes associated with a large investment, inheritance or lottery.

- Don't reply.
- Don't open any attachments. They can contain malicious code that may infect your computer or mobile phone.
- Don't click on any links. Visit our identity protection page if you clicked on links in a suspicious email or website and entered confidential information.
- Forward the email as-is to us at phishing@irs.gov. Don't forward scanned images because this removes valuable information.
- Delete the original email.

2. If you receive a **phone call** from someone claiming to be from the IRS but you suspect they are not an IRS employee.

- Record the employee's name, badge number, call back number and caller ID if available.
- Call 1-800-366-4484 to determine if the caller is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you.
- If the person calling you is an IRS employee, call them back.
- If not, report the incident to TIGTA and to us at phishing@irs.gov (Subject: 'IRS Phone Scam')

3. If you receive a **letter, notice or form via paper mail** or fax from an individual claiming to be the IRS but you suspect they are not an IRS employee.

- Go to the IRS home page and search on the letter, notice, or form number. Fraudsters often modify legitimate IRS letters. You can also find information at Understanding Your Notice or Letter or by searching Forms and Pubs.If it is legitimate, you'll find instructions on how to respond or complete the form.
- If you don't find information on our website or the instructions are different from what you were told to do in the letter, notice or form, call 1-800-829-1040 to determine if it's legitimate.
- If it's not legitimate, report the incident to TIGTA and to us at phishing@irs.gov.

4. If you discover a website on the Internet that claims to be the IRS but you suspect it is bogus,

- send the URL of the suspicious site to phishing@irs.gov (Subject: 'Suspicious Website').

IRS Warns of Pervasive Telephone Scam

The Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers about sophisticated phone scams targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, throughout the country.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

"This scam has hit taxpayers in nearly every state in the country. We want to educate taxpayers so they can help protect themselves. Rest assured, the IRS does not and will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone, nor request a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer."

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.
- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

If you get an unsolicited phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, **HANG UP. THEN CALL ME at 727-535-2257.**

DO NOT BE INTIMATED. DO NOT GIVE ANY INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE.

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