

IRS warns of scam phone calls

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued a consumer alert providing taxpayers with additional tips to protect themselves from telephone scam artists calling and pretending to be with the IRS. These callers may demand money or may say the taxpayer has a refund due and try to trick them into sharing private information.

As the list below suggests, it's fairly easy to detect when supposed IRS caller is a fake. Citizens who believe they've been targeted by this scam should contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of the complaint.

Five things scammers often do but the IRS does not

The IRS will never:

1. Call you about taxes you owe without first mailing you an official notice.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Source: IR-2014-84

References

Federal Legislative Report, Sept 2014. Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Identifies Five Easy Ways to Spot Suspicious Calls
www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Scam-Phone-Calls-Continue;-IRS-Identifies-Five-Easy-Ways-to-Spot-Suspicious-Calls