



SCAM ALERT

Scam: IRS Phone Calls Target: All Seniors

Scam artists are once again using scare tactics in an effort to obtain your personal information. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is warning individuals to be wary of a scam in which the scam artists are impersonating agents of the IRS and stating that a lawsuit has been filed against you or claim you under-reported your income. They demand immediate payment through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer as they continue with further threats of an arrest warrant being issued. The scam artist may even hang up and then have accomplices call back later impersonating law enforcement. This is a scam!

The United States Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) has received approximately 90,000 complaints regarding this scam and estimates that scam artists have stolen upwards of \$5 million dollars from close to 1,100 individuals.

Conversely, the scam artist may say that you are entitled to a large refund and request your Social Security Number (SSN) and banking account information to process your refund. This is also a scam. The IRS will always contact you first by United States (U.S.) Mail never demands immediate payment over the telephone nor specifies the type of payment method. The IRS will never request your credit, debit or banking information over the telephone and will always treat you professionally and courteously.

Beware of calls from 315-888-0353 or anyone claiming to be an IRS agent!

The IRS recommends the following to avoid this type of scam:

- 📞 If you know you owe taxes or think you might, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. An agent will assist you in determining if you owe taxes and if so, setting up a payment plan.
- 📞 If you are certain you do not owe any taxes, you may call and report the call to TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484.
- 📞 Always be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS or any government agency as a lure.
- 📞 Never give your personal information to a caller, this includes your full name, address, SSN, banking or credit card information.

If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS) at 877-565-2020, or your local police department.