



County of San Bernardino  
Department of Aging and Adult Services  
(DAAS)

# SCAM ALERT

## **Scam: Tax Preparation Dangers** **Target: All Seniors**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is warning consumers to be cautious when choosing a tax preparer and when sharing tax information. Scam artists are falsely representing themselves as reputable tax preparers. These criminals then have access to all your personal information and may falsify your tax return by claiming inflated expenses, false deductions, and excessive or expired tax credits. They may also tell you that they will send in your tax return and then change the address to a mail drop and keep your return. You would not know until you are contacted by the IRS after the tax filing deadline.

**Fraudulent tax preparations could cost you additional taxes & penalties!**

The IRS offers guidelines to help you since you are ultimately responsible for all the information on your tax return and ensuring that it is filed on time.

### **The IRS suggests you avoid tax preparers who:**

- Claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers;
- Base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund;
- Ask you to sign any blank form; and
- State that many phone customers receive a larger return with the telephone tax refund program.

### **The IRS suggests you make certain your tax preparer:**

- Asks you to bring all your receipts and supporting documents;
- Reviews your completed return with you and answers any questions you may have;
- Signs your return as your tax preparer and then provides you with a copy for your records; and
- Is available to answer questions months or years after the return is filed.

**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.**