



IRS Warns of New Phone Scam Involving Bogus Certified Letters; Reminds People to Remain Vigilant Against Scams, Schemes this Summer

Tell Tale Signs of a Scam:

The IRS (and its authorized private collection agencies) will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS does not use these methods for tax payments. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes. All tax payments should only be made payable to the U.S. Treasury and checks should never be made payable to third parties.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

For anyone who doesn't owe taxes and has no reason to think they do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to report the call. Use their [IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting](#) web page. Alternatively, 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.

The IRS does not use email, text messages or social media to discuss personal tax issues, such as those involving bills or refunds. For more information, visit the "[Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts](#)" page on IRS.gov. Additional information about tax scams is available on IRS social media sites, including YouTube videos.

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