Watch out for fake IRS calls and e-mail

You may get a call, text or e-mail from a person saying they are the IRS. They may say you owe money and must pay right away. OR they may ask for your bank account information to send you a refund. This is a rip-off to get your money. Don’t fall for it.

How to tell if it is a rip-off

The **real** IRS will:

- Send a letter **first** before calling or e-mailing
- **Always** send you a bill by letter before calling
- Let you ask questions about what you owe
- Let you appeal what you owe
- Give you several ways to pay what you owe

The **real** IRS will:

- **NOT** send a message on Facebook or Twitter to tell you about bills or refunds
- **NOT** tell you to use a prepaid debit card
- **NOT** ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- **NOT** say they will have you arrested for not paying.
- **NOT** say they will sue you.

If it is a phone call

- Ask for their name, employee badge number and a call back number. Then hang up.
- Call the **real** IRS at [1-800-366-4484](tel:1-8003664484). Tell them the name and badge number. Ask if the person works for the IRS. If they do, call them back.
- Did the **real** IRS say the person who called you doesn’t work for them? Then there are 3 ways to tell on them:
  1. Send an e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov) with the subject: “IRS Phone Scam.” Tell them about the call.
  2. Go to [www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml](http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml) on the internet. Answer the questions on that page. When you are done, click “Submit” at the bottom of the page.
  3. Go to [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/Information#crnt&panel1-1](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/Information#crnt&panel1-1) on the internet. This is the website for the Federal Trade Commission. On the left side of the page, click on “Scams and Rip-offs.” Then click on “Imposter Scams.” Answer the questions. Put “IRS Phone Scam” in the Comments.

If you get an e-mail that says it is from the IRS

- Don’t answer it.
- Don’t open any thing attached to the e-mail. It may mess up your phone or computer.
- Don’t give them your personal information or credit card or bank account numbers.
- Forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Then delete it from your computer or phone.


Tax problems?

You could get FREE legal help from the

**Tennessee Taxpayer Project**

A Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

To find out more or get an appointment, call: [1-866-481-3669](tel:1-866-481-3669) (It’s a free call)

A program of

[Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberlands](http://www.lawaid.org)