

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 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 click on any links. Did you already click on a link? Go to **www.irs.gov/individuals/identity-protection** on the internet to find out what to do.
- Don't give them your personal information or credit card or bank account numbers.
- Forward the e-mail to **phishing@irs.gov**. Then delete it from your computer or phone.



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**. 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** with the subject: "IRS Phone Scam." Tell them about the call.
2. Go to **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** 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.

You have rights as a taxpayer. To see them go to **www.irs.gov/taxpayer-bill-of-rights** on the internet.

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 (It's a free call)

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