

HOW TO SPOT IRS IMPOSTER SCAMS

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security number to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund.

The IRS will **never** contact you via email, text message or social media to request personal or financial information.

Five things the IRS will never do:

1. Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
2. Demand you pay taxes without first giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount the IRS says you owe.
3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS but you suspect they are not an IRS employee:

1. Record the employee's name, badge number, call back number and caller ID if available.
2. Call 1.800.366.4484 to determine if the caller is an IRS employee with a legitimate need to contact you.
 - If you determine the person calling you is an IRS employee, then call them back.
 - If not, then report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at [Treasury.gov](https://www.treasury.gov) and to the IRS by emailing phishing@irs.gov (Subject: IRS Phone Scam).

If you receive an unsolicited fax, such as Form W8-BEN, claiming to be from the IRS and requesting personal information.

- Send the scanned fax via email to phishing@irs.gov (Subject: FAX)
- For more information visit: [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov)

If you receive a letter, notice or form via postal mail claiming to be from the IRS but you suspect it is not:

- Go to the [IRS Home Page](#), and search on the letter. Fraudsters often modify legitimate IRS letters and forms.
- Additional information is available and [Understanding Your Notice or Letter](#) and [Forms and Pubs](#)
- If the letter or form is legitimate, you'll find instructions on the IRS website on how to properly respond to and complete the form.
- If you don't find information on the IRS website or the instructions are different from what you were told to do in the letter, notice or form, call 1.800.829.1040 to determine if it's legitimate.
- If it is not legitimate, report the incident to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](#) and to the IRS by emailing phishing@irs.gov.

If you receive an email claiming to be from the IRS that contains a request for personal information, taxes associated with a large investment, inheritance or lottery:

- Don't reply.
- Don't open any attachments. They likely contain malicious code that may infect your computer, tablet or mobile device.
- Don't click on any links contained in the email.
- Forward the email as-is to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.
- Delete the original email.

Samples of a Fake IRS emails

 <p>Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p>	
Important information about your tax return	
We are unable to process your tax return	
<p>We recived your tax return. However, we are unable to process the return as field.</p> <p>Our records indicate that the person identified as the primary taxpayer or spouse on the tax return did not provided all the required documents shown on the tax form. Our records are based on information received from the Social Security Administration.</p> <p>Based on this information, the tax account for the individual has been locked</p>	<p>What you need to do</p> <p>Print out the attached notification and list of missing documents, fill it in, add the documents and send the following information to the adress shown in the attached notification.</p> <p>List of required documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A copy of this letter2. Notification letter3. A photocopy of valid U.S. Federal or State Government issued identification.
Keep this notice for your records. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us	

From: IRS Online <ahr@irxt.com>

Reply-To: "noreply@irxt.com" <noreply@irxt.com>

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2013 12:15 PM

Subject: Final reminder: Notice of Tax Return. ID: I3H583326/13



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

04/11/2013

Reference: I3H583326/13

Claim Your Tax Refund Online

Dear Taxpayer,

We identified an error in the calculation of your tax from the last payment, amounting to \$ 319.95.

In order for us to return the excess payment, you need to create a e-Refund account after which the funds will be credited to your specified bank account.

Please click "Get Started" below to claim your refund:

[Get Started](#)

IRS

To: Recipients

Reply-To: do_not_reply@irs.update.com

Update Alert!

Internal Revenue Service
United States Department of the Treasury

This is an automated email, please do not reply

Dear Client

We've noticed that some of your account information appears to be missing or incorrect. We need to verify your account information in order to file your Tax Refund , Please Verify your account information by clicking on the link below:

[Click HERE to Verify your details](#)

Thanks.

IRS Team
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IMPORTANT NOTE: If you receive this message in your spam or junk, it is as a result of your network provider. Please move this message to your inbox and follow the instruction above.