



# IRS Imposter Scams

Scammers claiming to work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may reach out via phone, email, or text to say you owe money to the government. Look out for any of these scenarios:

- **Taxes** – The fraudsters will say you owe taxes and demand that you pay right away. They usually require payment through a wire transfer, a prepaid debit or gift card, or funds via a mobile payment app. Often, the criminals will threaten arrest or deportation if you don't pay.
- **Information Verification** – The scammer will send you an email or text message that asks you to confirm or authenticate your personal information. The messages often include a link to click or another feature that connects you to a fraudulent form or website.

## Don't Be a Victim

- Be wary of anyone claiming to be from the IRS. The IRS will always contact you via postal mail before making a call about unpaid taxes.
- The IRS won't threaten to arrest you for not paying a bill.
- If the IRS does contact you, they will offer you time to submit an appeal.
- Scammers can spoof caller ID and change the name that appears on your phone, so don't trust the caller just because it shows up as "IRS."
- If you think you owe back taxes, you can check with the IRS by calling **1-800-829-1040**.

## Report the Scam

If you think you've been scammed, report the incident to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).