

'TIS THE SEASON FOR TAX SCAMS

Don't become a victim!

Have you received a phone call from the IRS trying to collect a tax debt? Have you been threatened with consequences if you don't pay? Below are some tips on what to expect and not expect from the IRS.

FIRST BY MAIL

The IRS always makes the first contact with people via U.S. mail. This ensures an accurate record of correspondence. Your first notification of an unpaid tax debt will not be a phone call.

DON'T PAY THIS WAY

The IRS will never ask for payment via an iTunes card or a prepaid debit card. Most of the time for delinquent taxes, the process takes place through wage garnishment. It's never a good idea to send cash to a stranger.

W-2 SCAM

The Form W-2 scam is dangerous. Cybercriminals trick people who have access to payroll into disclosing sensitive information for entire workforces. Fraudsters pose as executives via email and request copies of Forms W-2.

EMAILS, TEXTS, AND MALWARE

There has been a surge in email, phishing, and malware scams. These are designed to trick victims into thinking they are official communications from the IRS or tax software companies. Emails containing directions to "update your IRS e-file immediately" are not from the IRS. There have also been similar requests made via text message.

HELPLINE

If you believe you may have a tax problem, don't panic. Call the IRS taxpayer helpline at 800-829-1040. For additional help, consult with legal counsel when needed.

REPORT THE SCAM!

If you receive a strange call, report it. You can call the Treasury Inspector General's scam line at 800-366-4484.

If you receive an email, you can forward it to phishing@irs.gov. You can also file a report with the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

irs.gov/scams

irs.gov/privacy-disclosure/report-phishing

treasury.gov/tigta