

***What to do if you suspect you are a victim of IRS fraud:***

If you suspect you are a victim of IRS fraud contact the following agencies:

- IRS 800-829-0433
- Oklahoma Tax Commission 800-522-3160
- Federal Trade Commission 877-438-4338 (877-IDTHEFT)
- Your Bank
- Credit Bureaus
  - check for unauthorized entries and place a fraud alert
    - ◊ Equifax 800-525-6285
    - ◊ Experian 888-397-3742
    - ◊ TransUnion 800-680-7289

For consumer alerts and more information on tax scams, visit:

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>

***Be smart, be careful and be on alert.***

***Your best defense is knowledge.***

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Quail Springs Substation

Quail Springs Mall, Upper Level, Northeast Entrance

405-869-2567



*Sheriff John Whetsel*

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102  
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## **TAX SCAMS**

***The IRS cometh...  
but the scammers will try  
to taketh away....***



As we begin to contemplate (some say dread) this year's tax filings the OCSO wants to remind citizens about the dangers lurking in the shadows. Every year scammers, fraudsters and thieves look for new ways to take your money before you know it's gone. In the coming months thieves will begin to target taxpayers through phone calls and emails, claiming to represent the IRS. Beware of scammers and arm yourselves with knowledge.

**Telephone scams target taxpayers.** These con artists use fake names, bogus IRS badge numbers and computer software to alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. Victims are told they owe money that must be paid immediately through pre-loaded debit cards or wire transfers. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are often threatened with arrest and the caller may become hostile toward the victim. The callers may also tell their victims, the IRS owes them money, and ask for bank information to complete a transfer. If the phone isn't answered they may leave an urgent message for a call back.

**Never call them back and DO NOT give out your banking information to anyone you don't know over the phone or by email.**

**The IRS will never** call to demand immediate payment, nor will the IRS call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.

**The IRS will never** demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.

**The IRS will never** require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.

**The IRS will never** ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

**The IRS will never** threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment, here's what to do:

- If you owe Federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.
- If you do not owe taxes, fill out the "IRS Impersonation scam" form on TIGTA's website, [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov), or call TIGTA at 800-366-4484.

**Phishing email scams.** Emails from people claiming they work for IRS are looking for your personal information. Phishing is a scam typically carried out through unsolicited email and/or websites that pose as legitimate sites and lure victims to provide personal and financial information. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. Report all unsolicited emails claiming to be from the IRS or an IRS-related function to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Recent scams have used the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) to attract potential victims. Also, if you've experienced any monetary losses due to an IRS-related incident, please report it to the Treasury Inspector General Administration (TIGTA) and file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) through their Complaint Assistant to make the information available to investigators.