

LATEST TAX SCAMS

How to Spot Them



Follow these tips to help prevent falling into the clutches of scammers.



Unscrupulous Tax Return Preparers

Warning signs: asks for cash only payments without providing receipt, invents false income or false Schedule C business, claims fake deductions, refuses to sign return, asks you to sign a blank return, charges a fee based on size of refund, or directs your refund into their own bank account. Check credentials of tax return preparers!



Ways to Spot Tax Scams and Impersonators

- They're calling you first.
- They're leaving a prerecorded voicemail.
- They're emailing you.
- They're texting you.
- They're contacting you via social media.
- The form they're sending or referencing doesn't appear on the IRS website.



Fake Fuel Credit Claims

The fuel tax credit is meant for off-highway business and farming use and, as such, is not available to most taxpayers. However, unscrupulous tax return preparers are enticing taxpayers to inflate their refunds by falsely claiming the credit.



Social Media Schemes

Social media can circulate inaccurate or misleading tax information. Social media scams can involve tax documents and encourage people to submit false, inaccurate information in hopes of getting a refund. Never submit tax forms or private information through social media, and keep in mind that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



Charitable Organization Scams

Scammers frequently use names that sound like well-known charities to confuse people. Fake charity promoters may use emails, fake websites, or alter or "spoof" their caller ID to make it look like a real charity is calling to solicit donations. Ask for the charity's name, EIN, website, and mailing address to confirm before donating.



Scan the QR code to learn more about these and other popular scams. Find more tax tips at www.TaxpayerAdvocate.irs.gov.