

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2017, or other tax year beginning

Your first name and initial

Last name

If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial



Tax Scams and Protection Tips

With the holiday season now over, and millions of Americans getting their finances in order for their tax obligations, financial fraudsters are lying in wait and looking for an opportunity to commit tax fraud. Identifying and learning how to protect yourself from tax fraud requires you to be diligent and properly educated on the various tax scams. Below are examples of tax scams that have been trending the last few years and various ways to protect yourself.

TAX SCAMS:

1. Phishing Scams

- Authentic looking emails spoofing the IRS or Human Resources that provide a link to access your W-2 or tax information.
- Spoofed emails asking for your W-2 or asking you to claim your refund online by clicking the link or sending personal information.
- Emails indicating your bank account or credit card account is compromised and asking you to go to a website to resolve the problem.

2. Phone Fraud

- You may receive a call from someone impersonating an IRS Agent asking you to send money via Moneygram or Western Union to pay off a IRS debt and threatening to inform local law enforcement.
- You may receive a call asking for your personal information such as social security numbers, bank account information or credit card information.
- The caller will use bogus names, titles and will provide fraudulent employee ID numbers.

3. Social Security Identity Theft

- Social Security fraud occurs when fraudsters file a tax return using someone else's Social Security number.
- The Social Security number is often stolen via email or telephone fraud. This type of fraud goes undetected until the victimized taxpayer files a tax return. They are then told by the IRS that someone has already filed a claim using their name and collected a refund. It can take several months to correct this problem and get the individual their tax refund.

4. Tax Preparer Fraud

- This type of tax scam involves contact from purported tax preparers either looking for information or asking you to update your tax or financial records.
- They will ask for personal identifiable information such as Social Security numbers, credit card or bank account information and PINs, which can lead to identity theft.

Please visit the IRS link below to learn more about tax scams and fraud:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>