



# BEWARE OF **IRS IMPOSTORS** It's Probably a **SCAM!**



Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan warns consumers about scammers who pretend they are with the government to scare you into sending money.

## **DON'T BE A VICTIM**

- Phony IRS scammers are targeting taxpayers around the country.
- Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and must pay **immediately** through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer.
- Victims are threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of driver's or business licenses.
- If victims say no or question the scammers, the scammers may become hostile and insulting.

**If you get a call like this, JUST HANG UP!**

## **TRICKS GOVERNMENT IMPOSTORS USE**

IRS scammers may...

- Use a fake name and IRS badge number.
- Know the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Spoof a fake IRS toll-free number on caller ID.
- Send phony IRS letters by mail or email in an attempt to make you believe the fake call.
- Call back and pretend to be from the local police, FBI or Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to convince you that the call is legitimate.

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET A SUSPICIOUS CALL**

If you get a call...

- And you know you don't owe taxes, call the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 to report the scam.
- And you may owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 for help.
- Report the call to the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Helpline at 1-877-382-4357 or visit [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint) to report the scam. Include the phrase "IRS Telephone Scam" in your comments.

## **Illinois Attorney General Consumer Fraud Hotlines**

Chicago  
1-800-386-5438  
1-800-964-3013 (TTY)

Springfield  
1-800-243-0618  
1-800-844-5461 (TTY)

Carbondale  
1-800-243-0607  
1-877-675-9339 (TTY)