

Senior **AGENDA**



SPRING 2022



Attorney General
KWAME RAOUL

Protecting older citizens continues to be one of the most important responsibilities of the Attorney General's office. My office works to protect all Illinois seniors by taking legal action against those who prey on older residents.

Seniors are too frequently the target of a wide range of consumer fraud scams. Scam artists perceive senior citizens as vulnerable or unfamiliar with technology. We understand what you are up against and know how hard it can be to avoid their traps.

This newsletter is a tool for you to stay connected and to stay informed. My hope is that you will act on what you read and pass tips on to other friends and family members. Please use our Senior Helpline at 1-800-243-5377 to ask questions or make a claim if you believe you might have been scammed.


**SLAM
THE TAX
SCAM!!!**



How Does the Scam Work?

During the federal income tax season the Attorney General's Office sees a spike in IRS-related scams. Scammers call intended victims and claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The scammers tell the intended victims they owe taxes and must pay immediately using a pre-paid debit card, money order, wire transfer, or gift card. If you refuse to pay, the scammers will threaten you with being charged with a criminal violation, a grand jury indictment, immediate arrest, deportation, or loss of a business or driver's license.

The scammers who commit this kind of fraud often:

- Use a robocall machine to make unsolicited calls via Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology that makes it appear that the calls originate in the U.S.
- Use "spoofing," a technique that can make the calls appear to be from the IRS or even a local police department phone number.
- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- State the last four digits of the victim's Social Security Number to appear legitimate.
- Aggressively demand immediate payment to avoid being criminally charged or arrested.
- Claim that hanging up the telephone will cause the immediate issuance of an arrest warrant for unpaid taxes.
- Send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam.
- Call a second or third time falsely claiming to be the police or other government entity.

The IRS Will Never:

- ✗ Ask for payment via prepaid debit cards, money orders, or wire transfers.
- ✗ Ask for credit card numbers over the telephone.
- ✗ Request personal or financial information by e-mail, text, or via any social media.
- ✗ Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- ✗ Call to demand immediate payment over the phone, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you several bills.



Stop.

If in doubt, check with
the real IRS at
800-829-1040.

Protect Yourself From an Imposter Scam

- Do not engage with the caller, JUST HANG UP!!!
- Never verify personal information with anyone, even if the information is correct!
- In an effort to stop or reverse the funds sent, immediately notify the company associated with the payment.
- If you become a victim: Keep the method of payment, receipts, notes, and telephone numbers used by the scammers. In the case of pre-paid cards, retain all card numbers.
- Share your experience with family and friends.

What You Can Do!



How to report an impersonation scam:

If you believe a scammer has called, you can contact the IRS or the US Treasury at **1-800-366-4484** or email phishing@irs.gov

Contact the Attorney General's Senior Fraud Helpline to report the scam at **1-800-243-5377**

File online through the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at www.treasury.gov

Report it to the Federal Trade Commission, Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes or call **1-877-382-4357 • 1-800-243-5377**