



City of  
**Tega Cay, South Carolina**

7705 Tega Cay Drive  
Tega Cay, SC 29708

Phone: 803.548.0340  
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[www.tegacaysc.gov](http://www.tegacaysc.gov)

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**UPDATE:**

Law enforcement agencies are seeing enhanced efforts by criminals to scam taxpayers out of their hard-earned money by impersonating Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Treasury Department employees during unsolicited telephone calls and robocalls. These scammers are demanding cash payments for unpaid taxes via prepaid debit cards, money orders, or wire transfers from their banks. According to the IRS, the agency generally first contacts taxpayers by mail—not by phone—concerning owed taxes, and it will never ask for payments using a prepaid debit card, money order, or wire transfer.

Additionally, the latest scam has a little twist to the typical IRS type phone and e-mail scams. This involves an e-mail that tells the recipient that the sender has agreed to kill the recipient for \$30,000. But, the ‘hit’ will not take place if the recipient will send him \$20,000. There are instructions in the e-mail on how to reply for information as to where to send the money. Please DO NOT be intimidated by this approach. These scams detail consequences that do not exist.

**Remember, the IRS will not call consumers and will not demand anything over the phone.**

If you think you have been the victim of an IRS impersonation scam, please file a report online with the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](http://www.treasury.gov/tigta) at [www.treasury.gov/tigta](http://www.treasury.gov/tigta) (click the red “IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting” button) or call the agency at 1-800-366-4484.

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ADDITIONAL IRS SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF:

**1. Fraudulent Filing**

A stranger files under your Social Security Number, claiming your tax refund before you could. The IRS then rejects your return, and you then have to prove who you are. That could lead to a long nightmare to finally get your correct refund.

The IRS has instituted new safeguards this year that should raise red flags if someone files in your name from a different address, or with a different employer. The IRS suggests the best thing you can do is file early, before a scammer (who may have your Social Security Number from a recent data breach) tries filing under your name.

You are increasing your chance of fraudulent filing with your delayed filing, allowing someone else to step in and file using your information.



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## **2. IRS Phishing Email**

Tax scam number two involves an email from the IRS, or one that at least it appears to be from the IRS. The email says "click here for the latest on your refund," or something similar. But it's a phishing scam, designed to get you to enter your Social Security Number.

The IRS does not contact taxpayers by email, especially to request them to download files or click on links. Additionally, clicking on attachments to or links within an unsolicited email claiming to come from the IRS may download a malicious computer virus onto your computer

## **3. IRS Phone Scam**

Tax scam number 3 has become the most common the past two years: the IRS phone scam.

A caller, claiming to be with the IRS or the Treasury Department, tells you that you are behind on your tax bill, and threatens you with arrest unless you pay money immediately. Thousands, if not millions of Americans have received these calls. The one thing you need to know is that the IRS would not be threatening immediate arrest, deportation, having your utilities shut off, or your driver's license revoked or something like that.

If you get that call, hang up.

You may also report instances of IRS-related phishing attempts and fraud to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](#) at 1-800-366-4484

Remember, the IRS will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via the U.S. mail. The IRS never asks for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the telephone. For more information or to report a scam, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and type "scam" in the search box.

People have reported a particularly aggressive phone scam in the last several months. Callers are frequently insulting or hostile - apparently to scare their potential victims. Potential victims may be told they are entitled to big refunds, or that they owe money that must be paid immediately to the IRS. When unsuccessful the first time, sometimes phone scammers call back trying a new strategy.

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.



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- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue, if there really is such an issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1.800.366.4484.
- You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant; choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Taxpayers should be aware that there are other unrelated scams (such as a lottery sweepstakes) and solicitations (such as debt relief) that fraudulently claim to be from the IRS.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

More information on how to report phishing scams involving the IRS is available on the genuine IRS website, [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).