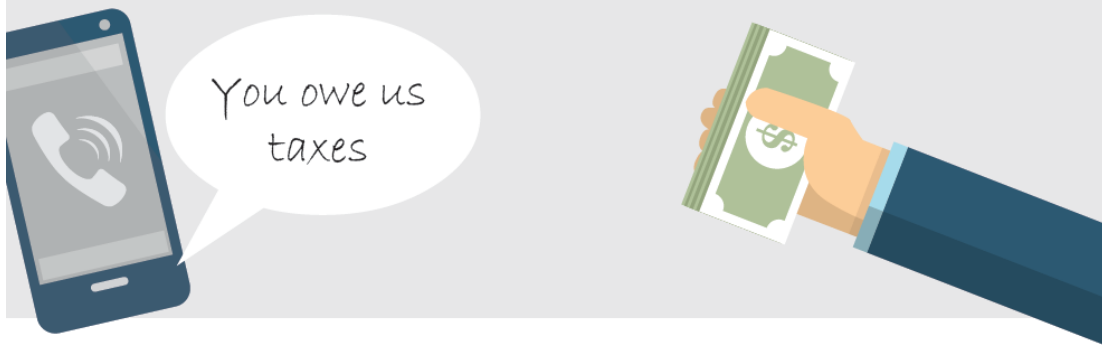


# IRS IMPOSTER SCAMS

on the rise

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency that collects federal taxes.

Scammers pretend to be IRS officials to get you to send them money.



# HOW THE SCAM WORKS



You get a call.

IRS

Your caller ID might show it's the IRS calling.



The caller might give a badge number and know the last four digits of your Social Security number.

You are told:



"you owe money."



"you better pay now, or you'll be arrested."



"put money on a prepaid debit card or wire it to us. "

If you pay...




You find out it wasn't the IRS. It was a scam.





The money is gone.

# WARNING SIGNS

## How will the IRS first contact you?

phone call 	<b>NO</b>
email 	<b>NO</b>
mail 	<b>YES</b>

## How will the IRS ask you to pay?

with a prepaid debit card 	<b>NO</b>
with a money transfer 	<b>NO</b>
won't require a specific type of payment	<b>YES</b>

# GOT A CALL?



## Don't give the caller information

such as your financial or other personal information.



## Write down details

such as the number and name of the caller.



## Hang up



## Contact the IRS directly

If you're worried the call is real, contact the IRS directly at **800-829-1040** or go to **irs.gov**.



## Report the call

File a complaint with:

- the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at **tigta.gov** or **800-366-4484**.
- the FTC at **ftc.gov/complaint** or **877-FTC-HELP**.



## Warn friends and family

Tell people you know that these calls are scams.




**ftc.gov/IRSimposters**

Federal Trade Commission  
January 2015



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**IRS IMPOSTER SCAMS  
WARNING SIGNS**



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