

TAX SEASON FRAUD DEFENSE

THE IRS ISN'T CALLING. THAT'S THE WHOLE SHEET, ALMOST

THE 4 TAX CLASSICS:

- 01** THE ANGRY IRS CALL. Threats, arrest warrants, "pay by gift card today." The IRS initiates contact by postal mail. Not phone, not text, not email. Anyone else is a scammer with a script.
- 02** THE REFUND THAT NEEDS "VERIFICATION." A text or email with your "refund status" and a link asking for your Social and bank login. The IRS already has both.
- 03** THE GHOST PREPARER. Does your return, promises a huge refund, won't sign it as the preparer, wants their fee from your refund. When the fake deductions surface, they're gone and it's your name on the fraud.

THE CHECK: legitimate preparers sign and provide a PTIN. No signature, no filing.

- 01** THE EARLY FILER WHO IS YOU, BUT ISN'T. Someone files a return in your name and takes the refund before you get around to it.

THE FIX: file early, and get an IRS Identity Protection PIN at irs.gov/ippin. Free, takes 10 minutes, makes your Social useless for fake filings.

DO THIS TODAY: IP PIN, then file before they do.

This sheet is the 4 classics. The Tax Season Fraud Defense Kit (\$8.99) covers what happens if one of them already got you: the identity theft affidavit, the W-2 phishing scam aimed at your workplace, and the paperwork fight to get your real return processed.

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