

TAX SEASON FRAUD DEFENSE

THE IRS USUALLY MAILS FIRST. SCAMMERS DEMAND NOW.



THE ANGRY IRS CALL

Threats. Arrest. "Pay today by gift card."

The IRS generally contacts you by mail first. It does not call to demand immediate payment or threaten arrest.

NO PRIOR MAIL + URGENCY? HANG UP. VERIFY THROUGH IRS.GOV.



THE REFUND "VERIFICATION"

A text or email claims your refund needs action, then asks for your SSN, bank login, or a click. Do not use the link. Type irs.gov/refunds yourself to check the real status.

UNEXPECTED LINK + PRIVATE INFO REQUEST = DELETE IT.



THE GHOST PREPARER

Promises a huge refund. Will not sign as the paid preparer. Wants a fee based on your refund. You remain responsible for what is filed in your name. Never sign a blank return.

THE CHECK: PAID PREPARERS SIGN AND INCLUDE A VALID PTIN.



THE EARLY FILER WHO ISN'T YOU

A thief files in your name first and takes the refund. File early. Get a free, 6-digit IRS Identity Protection PIN. It helps block federal returns filed without your IP PIN.

GET IT ONLY AT IRS.GOV/IPPIN. KEEP YOUR IP PIN PRIVATE.

DO THIS TODAY GET AN IP PIN. THEN FILE EARLY.

Use the IRS online tool. Identity verification is required. A new IP PIN is issued for each calendar year.

GET YOUR IP PIN: [IRS.GOV/IPPIN](https://irs.gov/ippin)

