

# TAX SCAMS Circulating This Year

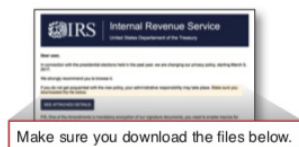
### EMAIL SCAMS

Beware of these scams, which either steal your information or infect your system with ransomware.

#### The “Privacy Policy”

You are asked to click on a link and download the new “IRS Privacy Policy.”

The email has an IRS logo and falsely claims that the policy is encrypted (making the email sound more legitimate).



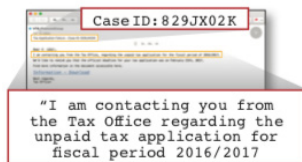
#### Refund!

You're asked to click on a document to learn more about a “special loyalty tax refund program.”

#### Missed Payment Deadline

You're told that you missed a payment deadline.

There is a sense of urgency, and the email mentions a “Case ID” number:



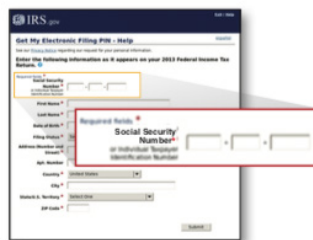
#### Violating Policies

You're told that your tax profile violates IRS policies. If you don't respond to the email, you will be subject to further penalties.

### Information Needed

You're asked to click on a link and provide personal information.

The email has an “IRS-gov” attachment that brings you to a phishing page where you're asked for your social security number and other sensitive information.



### Huge Refund

You receive a letter from the IRS Commissioner telling you that you will receive a \$7.5 million refund in the form of an ATM card. All you have to do is supply some personal information.

### What You Can Do

Know that if a debt is owed, the IRS will first contact you by mail. If you did not respond, a debt collector might call. The debt collector would NOT request bank account information or credit card numbers over the phone. You would pay the IRS directly.

Don't click on any links or attachments supposedly sent by the IRS.

Check the status of your refund by visiting [irs.gov/Refunds](http://irs.gov/Refunds).

If you have questions, type [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) into your browser and call one of the customer service numbers listed on the page.

**Forward scam emails to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).**

### PHONE SCAMS

#### Verifying Information

Callers claim to be from the IRS and say they have your tax return. They just need to verify a few details to process it.

#### You're in Trouble

You receive an intimidating call claiming to be from the IRS, saying that you owe taxes. The caller might:

Tell you this is your last warning. Threaten to arrest or deport you if you don't pay.

Know all or part of your Social Security Number.

Rig the caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from the IRS.

Tell you to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the number.

A new twist this year: the IRS impersonators are demanding payments on iTunes and other gift cards.

