



Beware of Tax Scams!

The AARP Fraud Watch Network, in collaboration with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, urges you to watch out for these common tax scams.

IRS Imposters

You get a call from someone claiming to be an IRS employee, saying you owe taxes, and threatening to arrest you if you don't pay immediately. The call may seem legitimate because the caller ID says it's from the IRS. The caller may even know part of your Social Security number.

If you get a call like this, hang up the phone!

The IRS will never call and request payment without first sending a notice through the mail. The IRS will never ask for credit or debit card numbers, and will never threaten you with arrest for nonpayment. If you receive a call like this and are concerned you may owe money, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040.

Tax Identity Theft

Tax identity theft is when a criminal uses your Social Security number to file a fake tax return and collect a fraudulent refund. Victims don't even know it's happened until they try to file their real tax return and are notified that a return has already been filed.

If tax identity theft happens to you:

- File a police report.
- Mail a copy of the police report, a paper tax return and IRS Form 14039 "Identity Theft Affidavit" to the IRS.
- Contact one of the three main credit bureaus to place a 'fraud alert' on your credit reports
www.experian.com or 1-888-397-3742
www.transunion.com or 1-800-680-7289
www.equifax.com or 1-800-766-0008

To stay up-to-date on fraud and scams around the country and in your community, visit www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork. And to learn more about AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide.

