



# BEWARE OF GOVERNMENT

# IMPOSTORS



## It's Probably NOT the IRS Calling!

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan warns consumers about scammers who pretend they are with the government to scare you into sending money.

### DON'T BE A VICTIM

- Phony IRS scammers are targeting taxpayers around the country.
- Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and must pay immediately through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer.
- Victims are threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of driver's or business licenses.
- If victims say no or question the scammers, they may become hostile and insulting.

If you get a call like this, **JUST HANG UP!**

### TRICKS GOVERNMENT IMPOSTORS USE

IRS scammers may...

- Use a fake name and IRS badge number.
- Know the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Spoof a fake IRS toll-free number on caller ID.
- Send phony IRS letters by mail or email in an attempt to make you believe the fake call.
- Call back and pretend to be from the local police, FBI or Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to convince you that the call is legitimate.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET A SUSPICIOUS CALL

If you get a call...

- And you know you don't owe taxes, call the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 to report the scam.
- And you may owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 for help.
- Report the call to the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Helpline at 1-877-382-4357 or visit [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint) to report the scam. Include the phrase "IRS Telephone Scam" in your comments.

### Illinois Attorney General Consumer Fraud Hotlines

Chicago  
1-800-386-5438  
1-800-964-3013 (TTY)

Springfield  
1-800-243-0618  
1-800-844-5461 (TTY)

Carbondale  
1-800-243-0607  
1-877-675-9339 (TTY)

