

Ingenious Scam Targets Taxpayers

Article Highlights:

- Scammers Change Tactics
- Fake IRS Mail Notices
- Have Your Tax Preparer Review Notice

Crooks have tried all sorts of e-mails scams, but almost everyone has figured out that the IRS does not send out notices by e-mail. So crooks have changed their tactics. Now, there are reports of taxpayers receiving by mail fake notices requiring immediate payment to a P.O. Box. The P.O. Boxes are located in cities where the IRS has service centers, but of course are not IRS P.O. Box addresses.

These scammers have duplicated the look of official IRS mail notices, which to the untrained eye would lead one to believe a notice was really from the IRS.

So be extremely cautious of any notice you may have received from the IRS. If a notice is demanding immediate payment and there has not been any prior contact by the IRS over the issue, then the notice is probably from a scammer. Reports indicate the initial letters were numbered CP-2000.

Here is a sample fake IRS CP-2000 supplied by [Iowa State University](#).

<https://www.calt.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/files-page/SCAMletter.pdf>



AUSTIN PROCESSING CENTER
P O BOX 15264
AUSTIN TX 78761-5264

Wrong

???
CP 2000

Wrong

~~MISSOURI~~
13151 WOODTREK
HOUSTON TX 77015

Notice	CP2000
Tax Year	2015
Notice Date	2016-08-26
Social Security	XXXXXXXXXX
To contact us	XXXXXXXXXX
Your Caller ID	336524
Page 1 of 2	16G

Changes to your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return

Balance due: \$325.00

As a result of examination we have made adjustments to your federal income tax return for the tax year ending 12-2015. As a result, you owe the amount indicated above.

Please pay immediately to avoid additional interest and penalties.

Summary

Balance before this change	\$0.00
Increase in tax	\$325.00
Balance due	\$325.00

What you need to do

If you agree with the changes we made

- Send us your payment as soon as possible for the total amount due indicated above. Make your check or money order payable to "I.R.S." and mail it to the address indicated on this payment coupon.

should be United States Treasury

If you do not agree with the changes

- You may send us your payment immediately to avoid additional interest and penalties. Please write a short explanation telling us why you disagree and enclose it with your payment. If we determine you did not owe this balance, we will process the refund with your next income tax refund or credit it to any future balance due you may have.
- If we do not hear from you within 30 days of the date of this notice, we will assume you agree with the changes we made.

Wrong

Explanation

The Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Starting January 2014, you and your family must either have health insurance coverage throughout the year, qualify for an exemption from coverage, or make a payment when you file your 2014 federal income tax return in 2015. Many people already have qualifying health insurance coverage and do not need to do anything more than maintain that coverage in 2014.
- Qualifying coverage includes coverage provided by your employer, health insurance you purchase in the Health Insurance Marketplace, most government-sponsored coverage, and coverage

Don't be a victim, have any notice you receive from the IRS, or any tax authority for that matter, reviewed by this office before taking action.