

In recent years, tax filing season has also become known as “tax scam season,” due the increased proliferation of scams that aim to separate you from your money. To help combat fraud and protect taxpayers, the IRS publishes a list of the top tax scams each year. Below are five of today’s most common scams and ways you can avoid falling victim.

1. **Identity Theft** - If you’ve been a victim of stolen personal information, contact the IRS at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) so the agency can work to prevent the filing of fraudulent tax returns and refund claims in your name.
2. **Phishing** - Be wary of fake emails or websites looking to steal your personal information. If you receive a request for information that appears to be from the IRS, contact the IRS directly to verify the request.
3. **Telephone & Email Scams** - Scammers impersonating the IRS may say you are due a large refund or owe money (and may even make threats). Report the call or email immediately to the IRS and the Federal Trade Commission using their “FTC Complaint Assistant” at [FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov). (The IRS provides official notices via regular mail only).
4. **Tax Return Preparer Fraud** - Dishonest preparers may use tax preparation as an excuse to steal your personal information or file false returns with big refunds payable to them. Only use a preparer who signs the return and has an IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number.
5. **Impersonation of Charitable Organizations** - Donate only to recognized charities, and beware of charities whose names sound similar to the well-known ones. You can check out charitable organizations at websites like [CharityNavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org), [CharityWatch.org](https://www.charitywatch.org) and [GiveWell.org](https://www.givewell.org).

Please contact us at 972-702-6080 if you have any questions. Bill and Woody are always happy to meet with you or any friends or family members who would benefit from their guidance and educational emails.

All the best,

From the desk of Jessica Scott



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