



W. James Steen, CFP®

jim@petrafin.com

(O) 937.294.9000

www.petrafinancialsolutions.com

It's tax season and there is a scam going around I want you to be aware of. You might receive a phone call where the caller will say they are from the IRS, you need to pay a tax bill with a credit card immediately or you'll go to jail. This is a scam!

As always, do not give out any personal information over the phone. Be aware that calls of this nature are not legitimate, no matter how official they sound. The IRS will never telephone you about taxes due; they send official notices only by U.S. mail.

Now, not only are the "bad actors" impersonating the IRS, but as part of their sophisticated scams they are even able to deposit something that looks like a "refund" to your bank account, then call you to demand its return. Here are some steps you can take to stay alert to fraud of this type:

- 1. If you get a call purporting to be from the IRS - or bank, credit card company, etc. - hang up.** If you think the call might be legitimate (such as your bank asking about a suspicious or especially large transaction), call back immediately at the main number for the bank or other institution's website. Again, do not answer any questions or give out or confirm any personal information to an unsolicited caller.
- 2. Check your financial accounts daily.** You are more likely to notice a problem if you keep tabs regularly. And be sure to watch for small transactions of a dollar, or just a few cents – these may indicate a bad actor is testing your account to see if it is vulnerable.
- 3. Set up alerts for account activity.** Many financial institutions let you set up an alert (usually a text message or email) when your card is used. This can help you become aware of unusual activity quickly.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you would like more information about keeping your personal information safe. Thank you for allowing me to work with you to reach your financial goals, and I wish you continued success.

These are the views of James Steen. No independent analysis has been performed and the material should not be construed as investment advice. Investment decisions should not be based on this material since the information contained here is a singular update, and prudent investment decisions require the analysis of a much broader collection of facts and context. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however, we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy.

All economic and performance information is historical and not indicative of future results. The market indices discussed are unmanaged. Investors cannot directly invest in unmanaged indices. Investment Advisor Representatives offering securities and Advisory Services through Cetera Advisors LLC, member FINRA, SIPC, a broker/dealer and Registered Investment Adviser. Petra Financial Solutions is not affiliated with Cetera Advisors LLC. Petra Financial Solutions, Inc. 385 Regency Ridge Drive, Dayton, OH 45459-4252.