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REPORT OF COUNSEL JUNE 2014

Has the IRS Called You Lately?

Have you received one or more calls from an alleged IRS agent urging you to call them back immediately about an unspecified tax issue? I've received several of these calls this month.

The IRS issued a warning about an on-going phone scam in which the thief makes an unsolicited call to you and poses as an IRS agent. The caller will say that you owe taxes to the IRS and pressure you to pay immediately with a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. The caller may threaten you with arrest, deportation, suspension of a business or driver's license. The caller may become hostile or insulting if you refuse to pay.

The thief may:

Use a common name or fake IRS badge number;

Know the last four digits of your Social Security Number;

Make the caller ID appear as if the IRS is calling;

Send bogus IRS emails to support the bogus calls;

Call a second time claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles. The caller ID again appears to support this claim.

If you receive such a call hang up! If you think you owe taxes or have an IRS problem, please give me a call or call the IRS at 800/829-1040.

If you know you don't owe anything, call and report the incident to the IRS at 800/366-44484.

First Contact by the IRS

If the IRS has an issue with you they will usually contact you first by mail. The notice will specify your name, Social Security number, tax year, tax form and other information to identify the tax issue. This notice will also have an 800 number for you to call.

The IRS Will Never:

Ask you for a PIN number, password, confidential credit card ban or other account information;

Ask for payment using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer;

Ask for a credit card number over the phone.

How did I know that the thief who called me was a phony? The woman who called me twice was clearly reading from a script as both calls used the exact same wording. Additionally, she did not seem very “with it” while reading the script.