



**St. Clair County
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

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IRS IMPERSONATOR SCAM RETURNS

Sheriff Tim Donnellon is once again advising citizens to be aware of an Internal Revenue Service imposter scam. The Sheriff's Office has received dozens of phone calls and complaints of a person calling their home and advising them they are behind in taxes and must make payment or face arrest. This is an ongoing scam that last reared its head in July of last year. Below is information from the IRS website:

IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information.

If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Note that the IRS will never: 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill; 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe; 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card; 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

"We do know of citizens of St. Clair County who have been taken in by this scam," said Sheriff Donnellon. "If anyone has been a victim, or receives a call, we ask that they contact the Internal Revenue Service immediately."

The phone number to contact is to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

For internet information on IRS impersonator scams: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>