



WV Executive Branch Privacy Tip Tax Time Tips – April 15th is upon us!



As you know, the Privacy Office occasionally issues tips to assist you in your “away from work” life. This tip is for that purpose.

Tis the season! Here are some tax scams to look out for:

1. Telephone Scams

Beware of people claiming to be from the IRS. They will give you their IRS Agent “badge number”, the last four digits of your Social Security Number, and the caller ID appears to come from the IRS toll-free number. They may tell you there is a problem with your return and you need to provide more information or send them money immediately to avoid being arrested. Your best bet is to hang up and call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to see if there really is a problem with your return.

2. Phishing

This one is similar to the phone scam, but it will come as an email. It could look like it’s from the IRS or a tax-related company. It will tell you to click on a link for more information. If you do, you could be downloading a virus or be directed to a malicious website. Forward these messages to phishing@irs.gov.

3. Unscrupulous Tax Preparers

These people will tell you that they know “tricks” to get you a bigger refund, but you’ll have to pay a large fee to get it. Sometimes they will miss exemptions or refunds, or just short you on your legitimate refund, and pocket the money. The IRS has advice on choosing a tax preparer [here](#).

If you suspect your Social Security number has been stolen, or if you get a letter from the IRS denying your refund or suggesting that you failed to report income earned from an unknown employer, call the IRS Identity Theft Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. Report the suspected fraud and ask for the IRS ID Theft Affidavit Form 14039. If you are a tax identity theft victim, the IRS may give you a personal PIN number to verify your identity and protect your file going forward.

Note: Your agency/bureau/department/division may have specific requirements – always check your policies and procedures. If you have questions, contact your Privacy Officer.