

August 2014

For information about fraud and scams or to schedule a presentation about fraud related issues and prevention contact:

*Maro Casparian
Dir. Consumer Fraud
amc@denverda.org
720.913.9036*



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District
201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035



Mitch Morrissey
Denver District Attorney

Consumer Advisory

HANG UP BEFORE YOU PAY UP

There's a new warning from the IRS.

Taxpayers are receiving calls from scammers pretending to be with the IRS and demanding payment. Not only has the IRS agency been flooded with these calls, but so has the Denver District Attorney's Office Hotline.

"We continue to hear from taxpayers who have received unsolicited calls from individuals demanding payment while fraudulently claiming to be from the IRS." says Debra Shampanier, Economic Crime Specialist.

There are clear warning signs about these scams, which continue at high levels throughout Denver and the nation. Remember, your first contact with the IRS will **not be a call** from out of the blue, but through official correspondence sent through the mail. A big red flag for these scams are angry, threatening calls from people who say they are from the IRS and urging immediate payment. This is not how the IRS operates. If you get a call like this hang up and immediately call the IRS and/or the Denver District Attorney's Office Fraud Hotline.

The IRS will never:

- Ask for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the telephone.
- Insist that taxpayers use a specific payment method (often Green Dot Prepaid money cards) to pay tax obligations
- Request immediate payment over the telephone and will not take enforcement action immediately following a phone conversation. Taxpayers usually receive prior notification of IRS enforcement action involving IRS tax liens or levies.

Potential phone scam victims may be told that they owe money that must be paid immediately to the IRS or they are entitled to big refunds. When unsuccessful the first time, sometimes phone scammers call back trying a new strategy.

Protect yourself:

Be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. **Do not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message.**

This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels.

The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

Please feel free to forward this email to help others be forewarned!

Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179