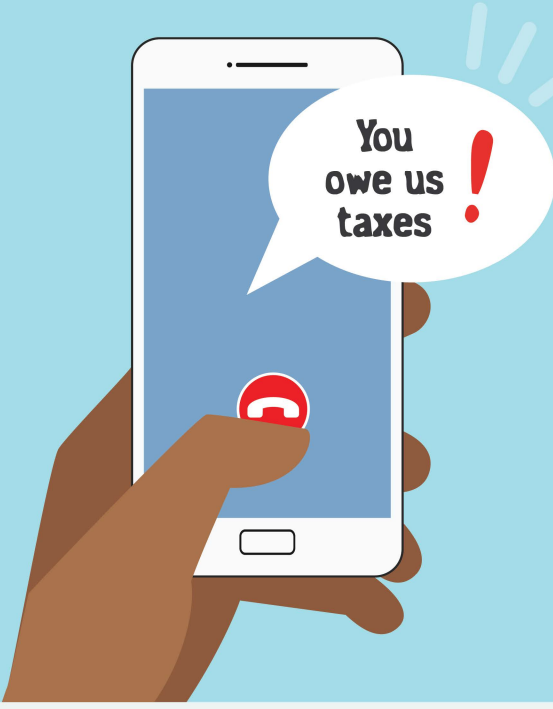


# IRS IMPOSTER SCAMS





**The Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** is the government agency that collects federal taxes.




**Scammers pretend to be IRS officials** to get you to send them money.

## How the scam works

### You get a call.

-  Your caller ID might show it's the IRS calling.
-  The caller might give a badge number and know the last four digits of your Social Security number.

### You are told:

-  "You owe money."
-  "You better pay now or you'll be arrested."
-  "Put money on a prepaid debit card or wire it to us."



### If you pay...

-  You find out it wasn't the IRS. It was a scam. → **The money is gone.**

## Warning signs

How will the IRS first contact you?		How will the IRS ask you to pay?	
Phone call	<b>NO</b>	With a prepaid debit card	<b>NO</b>
Email	<b>NO</b>	With a money transfer	<b>NO</b>
Mail	<b>YES</b>	Won't require a specific type of payment	<b>YES</b>

## Got a call?

-  **Don't give the caller information** such as your financial or other personal information.
-  **Write down details** such as the number and name of the caller.
-  **Hang up**
-  **Contact the IRS directly**  
If you think you may owe back taxes, call the IRS at **800-829-1040** or visit **irs.gov/balancedue**.
-  **Report the call**  
File a complaint with:
  - the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at [tigta.gov](http://tigta.gov) or 800-366-4484.
  - the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint) or 877-FTC-HELP.
-  **Warn friends and family**  
Tell people you know that these calls are scams.

