

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT FRAUD SCHEMES

DO NOT GET FOOLED BY FAKE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES!

Imagine you receive a call from the IRS tomorrow. The Agent on the telephone tells you that you owe a delinquent tax debt that must be paid immediately or you will be arrested. You thought you had paid all your taxes and this is the first you are hearing of a debt. The Agent tells you this is serious and must be dealt with immediately. What do you do?

Fraudsters are increasingly using the legitimacy of government titles (like IRS Agents) to get you to turn over your hard earned money through scams called "Government Imposter Scams." The fraudsters pretend to be government officials promising lottery winnings once taxes or other fees are paid or threatening you with arrest or a lawsuit if you do not pay a debt. They use a variety of tricks and tactics to make you believe you are talking to a legitimate government employee.

How do you protect yourself from government imposter scams?



- Slow down! There are very few things that need to be done immediately over the telephone.
- Take notes on the information and check it all out! Call the legitimate government agency (not the number given to you by the caller) to see if the names and telephone numbers you were provided match the real organization. Talk to you local police if you need help finding the legitimate contact information!
- Do not give the caller your financial or other personal information.
- Do not use quick money transfer products, such as Green Dot MoneyPaks, reloadable debit cards, wires, or money transfers. Be skeptical if anyone asks you to pay a debt, taxes, or fees using these methods.

Legitimate government employees will never ask you to provide your personal information, to pay money over the telephone, or to split or sharing "winnings." If anything about a situation makes you feel uncomfortable, you have the right to think about your options and consult someone you know and trust before making a decision. Do not get fooled by fraudsters impersonating government employees!

WANT TO REPORT A POSSIBLE FRAUD?

General Reports: Anti-Fraud Hotline (provided by the U.S. Senate Aging Commission)

1.855.303.9470 or www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline

Telephone or online fraud scheme? Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov) or Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov)

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service

1.717.257.2330 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Scheme involving money sent with GreenDot, MoneyGram or Western Union?

Green Dot: 1.866.795.7597

MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947

Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492