



FRAUD WATCH

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NSO wants you to be safe from predatory scams

From Captain Mike Imprevento, NSO's Consumer Protection Unit:

In this season of tax returns and Medicare enrollment there is a target-rich environment for those who wish to steal your money and your identity.

In every season, though, professional criminals inside and outside the United States use digital means to seek access to your bank accounts, your property, and your credit card information, to include ATM cards.



The Consumer Protection Unit of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office wants to assist you in protecting yourself.

Here are some important tools to keep in mind:

- **NEVER** give personal information to anyone you don't know over the phone, by e-mail or text.
- **NEVER** trust that a law enforcement official is on the phone asking you for money to pay fines or asking you to pay a fee to avoid jail time. Oftentimes scammers will pose as law enforcement to scare you into doing what they are asking you to do.
- **NEVER** believe that your utilities will be shut off if you don't pay by phone.
- **NEVER** send payment to anyone in the form of a MoneyPak card or gift card. It is a scam.

Please be vigilant and protect yourself and your family from these predators. Pay it forward and help us spread the word.

You can find more information about scams on our website at
<https://norfolk-sheriff.com/fraudwatch>

Caregiver Scams

If you are a nanny or caregiver, you know families and employers trust you to take care of their loved ones. It's that same trust scammers want to build with you which gives them the opportunity to steal your money and personal information. How does it work? You see an ad for a job and apply. The "employer" sends you a check upfront telling you to deposit it and keep part of the money, this is a scam. The applicant will later find out the check was fake and will lose any money they sent them and will be stuck repaying the bank.

It's tax season. Be vigilant for IRS scams

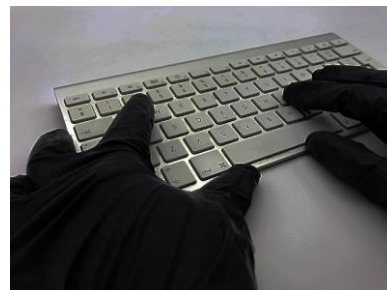
(From the Internal Revenue Service:)

Did you get an email or text message about a tax refund? Be warned, it's probably a scam.

IRS impersonators are at it again. This time, the scammers are sending messages about your "tax refund" or "tax refund e-statement." It may look legit, but the email is trying to trick you into clicking on the link so they can steal from you. How? They tell you to click a link that will allow you to check on your "tax refund e-statement" or "fill out a form to get your refund." But once you click that link, the scammer can [steal your identity](#) or put [malware](#) on your phone or computer.

The most important thing to know is that **the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will never contact you by email, text message, or social media** to get your personal or financial information. Only scammers will.

Sophisticated scammers are using the official seal of the IRS and other fake "official" indicators to get you to provide personal information so they can steal your identity and your money. **DO NOT FALL FOR THIS.**



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