



NEWS RELEASE: Treasury: Be Alert for Summer Tax Scams

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For Immediate Release

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Treasury: Be Alert for Summer Tax Scams

Cybercriminals Don't Take Summer Vacations

LANSING, Mich. – Now that it's July and the beginning of summer, the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury) encourages Michiganders to remain alert for aggressive and threatening phone calls made by criminals impersonating state tax officials.

Treasury typically observes scam phone calls throughout the summer where scammers make unsolicited calls claiming to be tax officials and asking for cash through a wire

transfer, prepaid debit card or gift card. Additionally, the criminals may leave "urgent" callback requests through robocalls or phishing emails.

"Cybercriminals don't take summer vacations," said Deputy Treasurer Glenn White, head of Treasury's Tax Administration Group. "The Michigan Department of Treasury doesn't initially contact taxpayers through the phone. Our first interaction is generally done by mail."

Scammers often alter caller ID numbers to make it look like Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service or another agency is calling. The callers may use employee titles, a person's name, address and other personal information to sound official.

Treasury will never:

- Initiate a phone call to ask for personal information.
- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, Treasury will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Taxpayers who don't owe taxes or don't think they owe taxes should hang up immediately if they receive one of these calls. For individuals who owe taxes or think they do, they can call 517-636-4486 to find out their account balance information.

Taxpayers who have received a call from a scammer should report the case to the IRS [through the web](#) or by calling 800-366-4484.

To learn more about Michigan's individual income tax, go to www.michigan.gov/incometax.

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