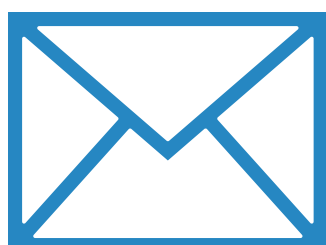




# TOP 5 TAX SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR



## 1. IRS LETTER SCAMS

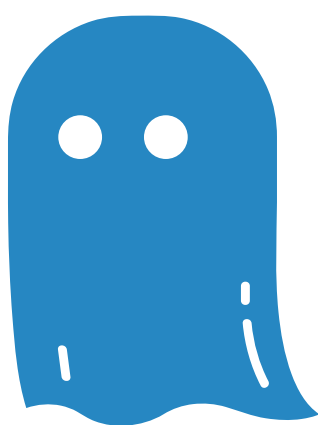
Scammers make it look as though this notice is to pay a fee. Other letter notices make it look as though the taxpayer simply didn't pay enough.

## 2. TAX TRANSCRIPT EMAILS

Scammers send out emails with an attachment labeled "tax transcript." A tax transcript is the summary of your return. Eager taxpayers open the attachment, only to find that it's a virus that released malware onto the taxpayer's computer which can steal personal information and render an entire network useless for months.



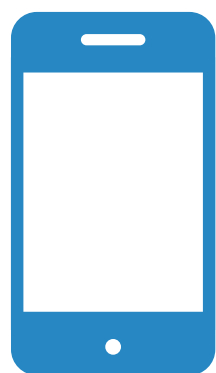
## 3. GHOST TAX PREPARERS



People who are not registered tax preparers. They typically send emails and sometimes have fake websites. They take over your tax paperwork and prepare it for filing. They bill the taxpayer, send them the paperwork to be signed or re-signed then instruct the taxpayer to send the documents to the IRS. The scam here is that this process is missing one very important step; the signature of the tax preparer and their PTIN.

## 4. NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Some scammers impersonate charities in an attempt to gain access to personal information. Others set up websites or even entire fake charities and accept "donations." There have even been reports of scammers pretending to be working with the IRS and offering to help taxpayers who have been affected by natural disasters file loss claims and get their tax returns.



## 5. IRS TELEPHONE SCAMS

The scammer claims taxes are owed, demanding payment right away, usually over the phone with a debit or credit card. They threaten with "additional charges" or even "jail time and criminal charges". These Scammers even display the local IRS TAC phone number. To the taxpayer, it looks like the local office is calling.

