



Investment Scams

Investment scams prey on your hope of earning interest or a return on an amount of money that you invest. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) offers overviews of many common investment scams and tips to avoid becoming a victim. Visit www.sec.gov/investor/alerts/enforcement to learn more.

If you are the victim of an investment fraud, you may file a complaint with the SEC or with your state's securities administrator.

IRS Imposter Scams

You may get a call from someone pretending to be from the IRS who claims you owe taxes. This caller will typically demand immediate payment and threaten you with arrest or lawsuits for not paying. Individuals carrying out this type of fraud will also make your caller ID appear as if the IRS is actually calling.

Signs of an IRS Imposter Scam.

The IRS will always contact you by mail before calling you about unpaid taxes, and will never:

- Demand immediate payment.
- Ask for a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer.
- Threaten you with arrest or deportation for not paying your taxes.
- Request personal or financial information by email, texting, or any social media.

Report an IRS Imposter Scam.

Follow these steps if you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS asking for a payment but have not first been contacted by the IRS via mail:

- If you owe federal taxes or think you might owe taxes, hang up and get helpful online tools from the **IRS**. You can also call the IRS about payment questions at **1-800-829-1040** or **1-800-829-4059 (TTY)**.
- If you don't owe taxes, report the scam to the **Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)** by calling **1-800-366-4484**.
- You may also file a complaint with the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** or call **1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)**. Make sure to add "IRS Telephone Scam" to your complaint description.
- Help keep others safe by reporting all unsolicited online messages claiming to be from the IRS (or related to their work) to phishing@irs.gov.

Learn how to protect yourself from and report other scams and fraud at www.USA.gov.