



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Consumer Information

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Those (not really) IRS calls

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You've probably gotten one of these calls: They say it's the IRS and they're filing a lawsuit against you for back taxes. They may threaten to arrest or deport you. What do you do? Watch this video to learn more:



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7U1k7bumDA>)

The FTC worked with AARP to create a series of videos about imposter scams – including IRS imposters, Medicare scams, and robocalls. While the videos are aimed at older Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the tips apply to everyone. Last week, we highlighted [Medicare scams](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/03/protect-yourself-against-medicare-scams) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/03/protect-yourself-against-medicare-scams>); this week, it's IRS imposters. Next week, stay tuned for robocalls.

In the video, you'll hear how these calls may sound – and then learn to spot and avoid these scammers. So, if you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS:

- **Hang up.** Don't give personal or financial information to someone claiming to be from the IRS. If in doubt, call the IRS directly at 1-800-428-1040.
- **Don't send money by wire transfer, prepaid card or gift card to someone claiming to be from the IRS.** That's a scam. The IRS will not require a specific type of payment.
- **Report the call.** Report phony IRS calls to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at [tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov) (<http://www.tigta.gov>), or to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint) (<http://www.ftc.gov/complaint>). The more we hear from you, the more we can help fight scams.
- **Tell your community.** Let your family and friends know about IRS imposters.

For more information about stopping imposter scams, visit [ftc.gov/imposters](http://www.ftc.gov/imposters) (<http://www.ftc.gov/imposters>). And to learn about how to stop unwanted calls, including using call blocking technology, go to [ftc.gov/calls](http://www.ftc.gov/calls) (<http://www.ftc.gov/calls>).

Blog Topics: [Privacy, Identity & Online Security](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/privacy%26-identity-%26-online-security) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/privacy%26-identity-%26-online-security>), [Limiting Unwanted Calls & Emails](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/limiting-unwanted-calls-%26-emails) (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/limiting-unwanted-calls-%26-emails>).