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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Records

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### \*\*\*\*\*PHONE SCAM ADVISORY FROM THE OCEANPORT POLICE\*\*\*\*\*

The Oceanport Police Department has received reports related to a telephone scam in which the caller purports to be an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) representative. Using intimidation tactics, the caller tries to take control of the situation from the beginning. The caller advises the recipient of the call that the IRS has charges against them and threatens legal action and arrest. If the recipient questions the caller in any way, the caller becomes more aggressive.

The caller continues to intimidate by threatening to confiscate the recipient's property, freeze bank accounts, and have the recipient arrested and placed in jail. The reported alleged charges include defrauding the government, money owed for back taxes, law suits pending against the recipient, and nonpayment of taxes.

The recipients are advised that it will cost thousands of dollars in fees/court costs to resolve this matter. The caller creates a sense of urgency by saying that being arrested can be avoided and fees reduced if the recipient purchases MoneyPak cards to cover the fees within an hour.

Sometimes the caller provides specific instructions on where to purchase the MoneyPak cards and the amount to put on each card. The caller tells the recipient not to tell anyone about the issue and to remain on the telephone until the MoneyPak cards are purchased and the MoneyPak codes are provided to the caller. The caller states that if the call is disconnected for any reason, the recipient would be arrested. Some recipients reported once the caller obtained the MoneyPak codes, they were advised that the transaction took too long and additional fees were required.

Call recipients, who are primarily immigrants, reported that the caller spoke with broken English or stated the caller had an Indian accent. If you receive a call similar to this follow these tips:

- Resist the pressure to act quickly.
- Report the contact to TIGTA at <http://www.treasury.gov/tigta> by clicking on the red button, "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting."
- Use caution when asked to use a specific payment method. The IRS would not require a specific payment method such as a MoneyPak card or wire transfer.
- If you feel threatened, contact your local police department.

In its latest of many alerts, the IRS says it will never:

- Call (or email) to demand immediate payment or call you about taxes you owe without first having mailed a bill.
- Demand you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount you allegedly owe.

- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes – for example, a Green Dot MoneyPak or prepaid card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Other things the agency won't do:

- It won't tell you where you can go to take a loan to pay your taxes.
- It won't call out of the blue to ask you to share your Social Security number.

Report IRS scam calls to the Treasury tax inspector general at 1-800-366-4484 or [tigta.gov](https://www.tigta.gov)

You can also report IRS scam calls to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftccomplaintassistant.gov](https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov). Put "IRS scam" in the complaint.

Report email tax scams to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

The real contact number for the IRS – the information you can call to ask about your taxes -- is 1-800-829-1040.