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****IRS Warning of Scam****

The Internal Revenue Service issued another strong warning for consumers against phone scams targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants. Reported incidents of this crime continue to rise nationwide. Immigrants are frequently targeted. Potential victims are threatened with deportation, arrest, having their utilities shut off, or having their driver's license revoked.

Important: The IRS will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via the U.S. mail. The IRS never asks for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the phone.

Characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's social security number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling. This number can be googled and will surface as a scam number.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.
- When unsuccessful the first time, sometimes phone scammers may call back trying a new strategy.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do.

- Indicate to the caller that you have an accountant, Catherine A. Ponist, CPA and to call her at 215-794-5675.
- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue, if there is an issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes and never received a bill, report the incident to Treasury Inspector General at 1-800-366-4484, or Federal Trade Commission Complaint Assistant at FTC.gov, indicating "IRS Telephone Scam" in the comments of your complaint, or www.irs.gov and type scam in the search box.

The IRS will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via the U.S. mail. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. The IRS does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts, and this information should never be given to callers or thru email. Any such emails should be forwarded to the phishing@irs.gov.