



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

Stephen S. Carlton
District Attorney

FRAUD ALERT

“District Attorney’s Office Warns of Increase in IRS Scam Calls and Provides IRS Scam Reporting Website”

April 12, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senior Deputy District Attorney: Anand “Lucky” Jesrani
CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT

During this peak of the tax season, the Shasta County District Attorney’s Office Consumer Protection Unit continues to receive numerous inquiries about phone calls where individuals pose as Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) agents and claim to be calling about collecting back taxes. The Unit reminds local residents of this ongoing nationwide scam and that recipients should report such IRS scam calls directly to the IRS.

The scam involves fraudsters posing as IRS agents and informing individuals that they owe back taxes. The individuals are told that if they do not call back with a payment, they will be taken to jail. The scammer may sometimes even know the last four digits of the individual’s social security number, giving the impression of legitimacy to potential victims. Another ploy, involves the fake IRS agent telling the individual that they are owed a refund due to an error by the IRS and if they simply provide personal identifying information (social security number, bank account information, etc.) that their refund will be then issued.

These types of calls **are always scams**, and such phone calls should be ignored. The IRS does not call taxpayers about their tax issues. The IRS will instead send letters in the mail, outlining the details of the issues and provide a legitimate avenue of contact for people to respond.

Additionally, the IRS has their own investigatory unit to investigate these types of scams. Individuals should file reports directly to the IRS, on their website at www.tigta.gov or by calling the IRS at 1-800-366-4484. Once on the website, the reporting party should click on the “contact us” link located in the yellow banner that reads “SCAM ALERT”, and then fill out the online form to complete and submit their report.

The District Attorney’s Office encourages residents to share this information along to friends and family, in an effort to spread awareness of this ongoing scam.