

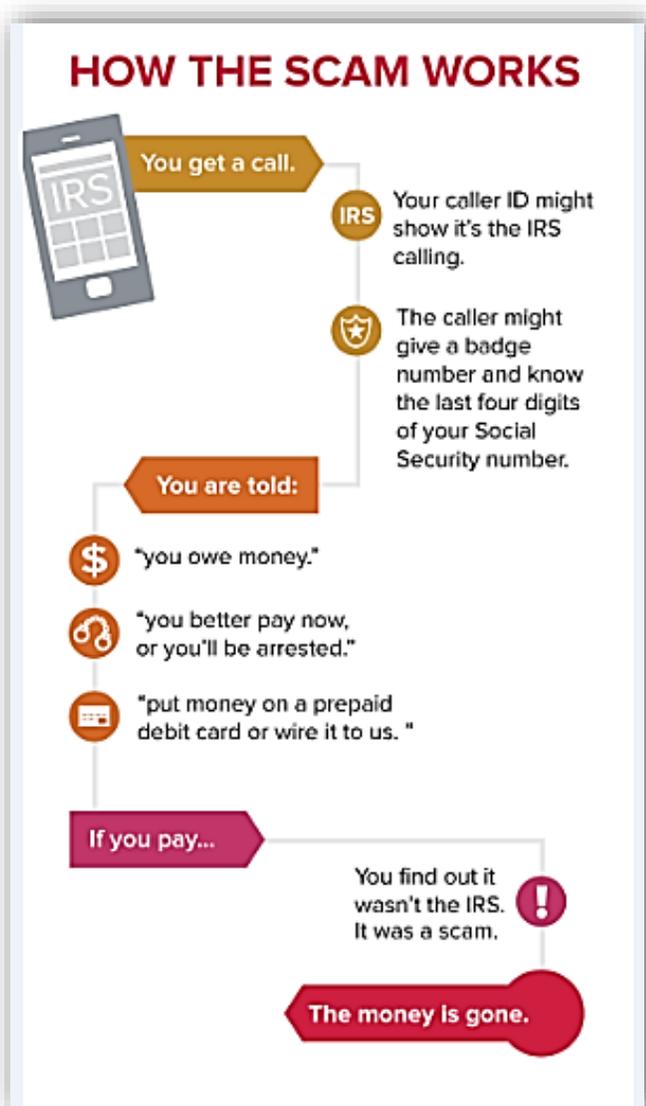
# FOOTHILLS BANK & TRUST WARNS BE AWARE: IRS SCAM!!!

## **Did you get a call or voicemail from someone claiming to be from the IRS??**

The D.C. Office of the Attorney General reports a surge in complaints about a scam federal investigators call the most pervasive in history. People pretending to be with the IRS call taxpayers and tell them they owe money... Don't panic. And don't return the call. It's a scam. They may know personal information about you such as your address, social security number, account or credit card information. DO NOT Confirm or deny any of this information, they are simply looking for you to confirm that it is valid or provide corrected information.

Foothills Bank had an employee receive one of these calls recently and we decided to do a little research on the matter. After hanging up on the caller, our employee reported the incident to the TIGTA (Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration). In speaking with the representative on the phone we learned that these fraudsters have a very methodical approach to scamming you out of your money. We were informed that this is a group of individuals working together by collectively selecting one person a day to attack. They make it seem very real, your caller ID might even say that the call is coming from the IRS, they might even give you a badge number and a phone number plus extension to call back. They say you owe back taxes and are being sued by the IRS, including freezing your accounts and assets and they threaten that the police will be on your doorstep to serve a warrant for your arrest. This calculated method of attack allows all the fraudsters to be educated on the individual that they are targeting for that day, and if/when you return their call any one of them that answers knows your personal information and can deliver threats to scare you into paying.

Here are some facts about the IRS that the TIGTA Representative told us, these can help you determine that the caller is a fraudster:



**WARNING SIGNS**

How will the IRS first contact you?		
phone call		<b>NO</b>
email		<b>NO</b>
mail		<b>YES</b>

How will the IRS ask you to pay?		
with a prepaid debit card		<b>NO</b>
with a money transfer		<b>NO</b>
won't require a specific type of payment		<b>YES</b>

**If you or someone you know has received one of these calls we encourage you to report it to the TIGTA:**

1. DO NOT GIVE THE CALLER ANY INFORMATION - HANG UP!
2. Write down details, such as the number and name of the caller.
3. If you feel the call is real, contact the IRS directly - 800-829-1040 or go to [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov)
4. Report the call, file a complaint with:
  - The Treasury Inspector General Tax Administration (TIGTA) at [TIGTA.gov](https://www.tigta.gov) or 800-366-4484
  - The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint) or 877-FTC-HELP
5. WARN FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!

For more information on these and other government impersonation scams check out: [ftc.gov/IRSimposters](https://www.ftc.gov/IRSimposters)