

**From the desk of
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How the IRS Contacts Taxpayers

There are many scams that purport to be the IRS or other government agencies all designed in exacting funds from you when in fact those scammers are not the government contacting you.

The first clue as to a potential scam is about to take place is that the Internal Revenue Service does not call, nor email you.

Some clues as to what the IRS does not do in contacting you as a taxpayer:

- The IRS will not initiate contact with a taxpayer by email. It is in fact extremely rare that an IRS Official will communicate with you by email even after a legitimate contact has been made;
- The agency does not send text messages or contact people through social media.
- When the IRS needs to contact a taxpayer the first contact is normally by letter delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.
- Fraudsters have now taken to the approach of sending fake documents through the mail, and in some cases will claim they already notified you by U.S. mail. Anytime you receive any communication from any government agency it is best to consult with us before attempting to respond to that agency. For those of you who are our clients we hold Power of Attorney for each of you, and we are copied on all correspondence. Our suggestion is that you never correspond, nor communicate in any fashion with any government agency, especially a taxing authority in that you can very easily provide information that could be extremely damaging to yourself. Always contact us when receiving any inquiry or communication from any taxing authority. We will handle the matter for you.
- Depending on the situation IRS employees may call or visit with a taxpayer but this is only after having sent official IRS communications by U.S. Mail.
- IRS revenue agents or tax compliance officers may call a taxpayer or tax professional after mailing a notice to confirm an appointment or to discuss items for a scheduled audit.

- Private debt collectors with contracts with the IRS may, and do call taxpayers for the collection of certain outstanding inactive tax liabilities, but only after the taxpayer and their representative have received written notice of who will be contacting you. Again, these matters should never be handled on your own, but through our office.
- IRS revenue officers and agents do make unannounced visits to a taxpayer's home or place of business to discuss taxes owed, delinquent tax returns or a business falling behind on payroll tax deposits. This is only after several failed attempts by that IRS official in making collections, or arranging for an installment payment arrangement first. IRS revenue officers will request payment of taxes owed by the taxpayer, however taxpayers should remember that payment will never be requested to a source other than the U.S. Treasury.
- When visited by someone from the IRS you should always ask for credentials.

IRS representatives can always provide two forms of official credentials, a pocket commission and a Personal Identity Verification Credential. If your matter has evolved to the point of an official visit, you have ignored the many attempts on the part of the IRS to collect any outstanding balances you might owe.

If you do not owe back taxes, and there have been no previous written communications sent to you through the U.S. Mail, kindly thank the individual, and immediately call the police, and us as your second call.

We here at Muffoletto & Company believe that the more informed you are in regards to the rules and regulations that affect you the more we can be of service.

**Should you have questions relating to any tax or financial matters call at
(818) 346-2160,
or you can visit us on the web at
[www.petemcpa.com!](http://www.petemcpa.com)**

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