



Borough of State College  
"A Home Rule Municipality"

## STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

243 South Allen Street

State College, PA 16801

www.statecollegepa.us

police@statecollegepa.us

Phone 814-234-7150

Fax 814-231-3070

THOMAS R. KING

Chief of Police



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2014

The State College Police Department and Penn State University Police are reissuing the below consumer alert issued by the Attorney General's Office on September 9, 2014, warning consumers about a reemerging "IRS scam" and additional phone scams prevalent the last few weeks. The IRS scam described has been reported in the State College area by both non-student and student residents. Victims are also reporting "law enforcement" calling and advising they have a warrant out for their arrest or a loved one has been arrested and must provide pre-paid credit cards over the phone to pay fines or bail. Reports have also been received of "Caller ID spoofing," being used in conjunction with these scams. "Caller ID spoofing" means a scammer can deliberately falsify the telephone number and/or name relayed as the Caller ID information to disguise the identity of the calling party. For example, identity thieves who want to collect sensitive information such as your bank account or other financial account numbers, your social security number, your date of birth or your mother's maiden name, will sometimes use caller ID spoofing to make it appear as though they are calling from your bank, credit card Company, or even a government agency to include law enforcement to appear legitimate so you will provide the requested information. It is important to follow Attorney General Kane's steps to avoid becoming a victim of phone scams which are listed below.

#### **Attorney General Kane issues consumer alert about reemerging IRS scam**

HARRISBURG - Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane today announced a pervasive scam seeking to defraud and scam taxpayers has reemerged in recent days and weeks targeting unsuspecting consumers and alleging they owe money to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Victims of the IRS scam are told that they are entitled to large refunds or that they owe money and must pay the IRS immediately. The IRS always sends written notification of any tax due by mail and never asks for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the phone.

Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane said her office has seen an increase in the IRS scam in recent weeks and urged consumers to be alert for unwanted calls that seem legitimate but make consumers feel pressured to act without validating the information. Victims have reported that the callers are aggressive and persistent.

Attorney General Kane reminded consumers that they should remain calm and verify their tax status directly with the IRS by calling 1-800-829-1040. The IRS recently re-issued its own [alert](#) regarding the scam.

According to the IRS, the agency will never:

- Call taxpayers about taxes they owe without first sending an official notice by mail.
- Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount allegedly owed.
- Require taxpayers to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit 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.

Attorney General Kane said consumers can take the following steps to avoid becoming a victim of this or other phone scams:

- Never give out sensitive personal or financial information over the phone, especially if you receive an unsolicited telephone call from a stranger.
- Never wire money or purchase green dot-type prepaid cash cards in response to a telephone appeal, whether it is from a stranger or someone who claims to know you or an organization you may be familiar with.
- Never let emotion or fear overcome your common sense. If you get a call from someone claiming to be a government agency or law enforcement, slow down and verify everything. Don't let anyone rush you. You can always hang up and call the agency directly to verify.
- Never give out sensitive information to anyone on the phone unless you initiated the call to a company or agency that you are certain is legitimate.

For more information or to report any scam, contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555 or your local police department.

**Off. K.L. Aston #3258**

**State College Police Department**

**Sgt. F. Pollack #4134**

**Penn State University Police**