



Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Division of Taxation

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Tax Administration

ADVISORY FOR TAXPAYERS AND TAX PROFESSIONALS
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Fraudulent calls claiming to be from RI Division of Taxation still targeting taxpayers

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation reminds taxpayers and tax professionals of the ongoing scams targeting Rhode Islanders. One such scam involves phone calls claiming to be from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. These scams can compromise the data security, finances, and identities of victims.

Tax filing season is a busy time for tax preparers and taxpayers alike. This is also the time of year when the volume of tax-related criminal activity increases. During this year's [extended state filing season](#), identity thieves, fraud perpetrators, and scammers remain active and continue to target Rhode Islanders.

The Division warns taxpayers of the increase in scam activity targeting taxpayers and tax preparers reported in [January](#) and [February](#).

The Division reminds taxpayers of the following points:

- The Division of Taxation will always mail you written notification regarding a tax debt or other tax issue before we call.
- The Division will never make threatening, insulting, hostile, or aggressive statements.
- The Division will never request payment via gift card or wire transfer.

Scam calls pretending to be from Division of Taxation employees have increased recently. In some instances, scammers have been able to mask their phone numbers and make the numbers appear to be legitimate Division of Taxation phone numbers. This tactic is called “spoofing.”

If you receive a scam call or a “spoofed” call, please follow the steps below:

1. If the call seems legitimate but you are unsure of the authenticity of the call, or do not believe you received a mailed notice first, call the Division to confirm the call’s authenticity at this number: [401-574-8829](tel:401-574-8829), [option #3](#).
 - Do not call back the number that called you.
2. If you receive a call that you know is fraudulent, hang up immediately. Do not engage with the caller.
 - Write down the number of the caller.

- For scam calls to your smartphone, take a screenshot or make a recording of the call, if possible. Remember, do not engage the scammer.
- 3. Report any scam or fraudulent calls pretending to be from the Division to our Taxpayer Assistance Section by emailing us at tax.assist@tax.ri.gov.
 - Please attach any screenshots, photos, or other information you might have.
 - You can also make a report by calling the Division's Taxpayer Assistance Section at: [401-574-8829](tel:401-574-8829), [option #3](#).

If you have concerns or questions, please reach out to the Division of Taxation. Email is the best way to reach us, and phone lines are staffed 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For a full listing of contact information please use our [online directory](#).

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, part of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. For more information, contact the Division of Taxation at (401) 574-8829 or see <https://tax.ri.gov/about-us/contact-us>.
