

DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Information Bulletin

Serving and Protecting the City of Darien, Illinois



FRAUD ALERT: Protecting Yourself from IRS Scams



HOW TAX SCAMS WORK

- 1 You get an **unexpected text or email** claiming to be the IRS or a refund center.
- 2 It asks you to **click a link** to "verify your identity" or "claim your refund."
- 3 The fake site **steals your SSN, bank info**, or login credentials.
- 4 Scammers may also **call or message on social media** posing as agents.



THE IRS WILL NEVER...

- ✗ **Text, email, or DM you** asking for personal info or payment.
- ✗ **Use social media** to contact you about taxes or your refund.
- ✗ **Demand gift cards, wire transfers**, or cryptocurrency.
- ✗ **Threaten arrest** for unpaid taxes without sending formal notice first.



WATCH FOR THESE RED FLAGS

Urgency or fear ("Act NOW or lose your refund!") · Requests for unusual payment methods · Suspicious or misspelled links · Generic greetings like "Dear Taxpayer" · Any refund-related text message (the IRS never texts you)



DO THIS — NOT THAT

✓ DO

- ✓ Check refund status directly at [IRS.gov/refunds](https://www.irs.gov/refunds)
- ✓ Call the IRS directly: **1-800-829-1040**
- ✓ Report scams at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)
- ✓ Forward phishing emails to phishing@irs.gov

✗ DON'T

- ✗ Click links in unexpected texts or emails
- ✗ Reply with personal info or account numbers
- ✗ Pay via gift cards, wire transfer, or crypto
- ✗ Trust caller ID — scammers can spoof numbers

Darien Police Department | 1710 Plainfield Rd, Darien, IL 60561

Non-emergency: (630) 971-3999 | **EMERGENCY: 911**

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