

TAX SCAM

How To Avoid Tax Scams

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to taxes—how much you've paid, how much you'll owe, and how to find the best help to keep your tax bill low.

It's also that time of year when criminals prey on unsuspecting victims, hoping to find trusting souls they can scam for thousands of dollars while pretending to offer help.

At MCBank, we aren't tax experts. But we are your financial partner—and as such, want to help you make the best decisions possible to keep your money safe.

HERE ARE SOME WARNING SIGNS THAT YOU'RE BEING TARGETED BY A TAX SCAM:

- ❑ You receive an email asking for personal or financial information, such as your social security number, bank account number, or credit card number.
- ❑ You receive an email or phone call containing threats or consequences if you don't return the call or send requested information.
- ❑ You receive an email supposedly from the IRS. The IRS will NOT contact you by email.
- ❑ You receive a phone call or email with odd phrases, incorrect grammar, or missing words.
- ❑ You receive an email with an attachment that supposedly contains "changes in tax law." DO NOT DOWNLOAD! These attachments are often malware that is intended to infect your computer.

HERE'S HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM:

- ❑ Never send sensitive information in an email—account numbers, social security numbers, etc.
- ❑ Install current security updates on your computer.
- ❑ Screen phone calls and avoid those from an unknown number. Hang up if you do not know the caller.
- ❑ Use authorized sites to download tax forms and information. The IRS is the best site to start for these forms. NEVER click a link from an email or an advertisement on the internet.
- ❑ Ignore ads or emails promising great deals on tax preparation, promises to lower your tax bill, or other offers that seem too good to be true—because they are!
- ❑ Use a trusted tax advisor or trusted online tax preparation service, and ignore everything else.

