

# HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HCSO Issues a SCAM Alert

Hanover, VA – The Hanover County Sheriff's Office is making the public aware of a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants.

Callers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

**Note that the IRS does not:**

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe. You should be advised of your rights as a taxpayer.
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law enforcement to have you arrested for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke your driver's license, business license, or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes.

When you receive a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS and notifying you that back taxes are due, do not provide them any personal information. Remember if you have caller ID and you don't know the number displayed, *do not answer the phone*. Let the call go to your voicemail/answering machine and you will decrease your chances of becoming a victim.

If you or a loved one have received one of these calls, and are at a monetary loss, please contact the Sheriff's Office immediately by calling (804) 365-6140. You can also report IRS scam calls to the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov) or the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

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