



NEWS RELEASE

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Attorney General Jackley Reminds Consumers of National Tax Identity Theft Week

PIERRE, S.D – Attorney General Marty Jackley is asking consumers to mark their calendars for National Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week, which will run January 29-February 2, 2018. Tax identity theft scams happen when someone uses a Social Security number to get a tax refund or tries to obtain personal identifying information while acting as an Agent of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

“Consumers are working to complete their tax filing requirements and these scam artists are trying desperately to catch them off guard. The IRS does not communicate with individuals via phone call or email with tax filing problems, so avoid clicking links on suspicious email messages or harassing phone calls,” said Jackley.

The scam targets consumers by both phone and email. The telephone calls suggest consumers owe money to the IRS and require immediate payment through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victims refuse to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver’s license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile.

The email scam is still prevalent as well. The victim receives an email claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), indicating there was a problem with their previous tax filing and should click on the link to review the issues. These scams are designed to obtain personal identifying information. Consumers should proceed with caution when visiting websites that either associate themselves with the IRS or have the appearance of the IRS site. These look-alike sites redirect consumers to bogus websites that will ultimately ask for personal identifying information such as social security or bank account numbers.

The official IRS website is www.irs.gov. It is important to remember the official IRS website offers tax information for consumers, but the exchange of private financial information is limited. Use precaution when logging on to the IRS website and double check your internet address to ensure it is correct.

Consumers who have sent funds should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or consumerhelp@state.sd.us. Those who have received phone messages claiming to be the IRS, should contact the IRS immediately at 1-800-829-1040 to verify the legitimacy of the claim.