



West Virginia Executive Branch Privacy Tip

PHONE SCAMS



The WV Attorney General's office continues to receive a high volume of calls related to the IRS Phone Scam. Reportedly, the Consumer Protection Division has logged thousands of complaints from consumers who have been contacted by a scammer.

Attorney General Patrick Morrissey first sent out a Consumer Alert about this scam on December 16, 2013 ([click here](#)). A caller will pretend to work for the Internal Revenue Service and threaten the victim with arrest or some other kind of punishment if he or she doesn't pay a certain sum immediately with a pre-paid debit card or money order.

"These callers claim the person who answered the phone has unpaid taxes that must be paid immediately," Attorney General Morrissey said in the alert. "They use aggressive language and threaten everything from jail time to deportation to loss of a driver's license or business license if the money isn't paid immediately."

Complaints can be filed with the WV Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808, or online at www.wvago.gov.

According to a recent release by U.S. Marshals Service for the Northern District of West Virginia, a scam involving callers identifying themselves as Deputy U.S. Marshals have been reported in both the northern and southern judicial districts in West Virginia.

People impersonating Deputy U.S. Marshals allegedly inform targets that they have either missed jury duty or are the subject of a federal criminal offense and need to make payment in the form of a money order to have their warrants dismissed.

"Deputy United States Marshals would never solicit payment of fines over the phone in the form of money orders or wire transfers. Public contact with the United States Marshals Service while conducting our enforcement duties is always in person and well recognized by the citizenry," stated the release.

Citizens who receive such calls are asked to contact the U.S. Marshals Service at 304-623-0486 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm.

Consumers can stay up to date with the latest scams by signing up for email alerts from the Attorney General's office at: <http://bit.ly/WVScamAlert>.

Note: Your agency/bureau/department/division may have specific requirements – always check your policies and procedures. If you have questions, contact your Privacy Officer.