

# UNDERSTANDING CHILD TAX CREDIT SCAMS

## Seven Ways to Avoid Child Tax Credit Scams

As child tax credit payments are beginning to be dispersed around the country, fraudsters are targeting those who may benefit from these payments. Consider these tips to avoid being the subject of fraudulent activity.

### 1. BE WARY OF CONTACTS

Customers should be wary of any unsolicited calls, e-mails and text messages. The IRS generally communicates by mail.

### 2. NEVER PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Many fraudsters will offer assistance to "sign up" for the child tax credit. Signing up is not necessary, and payments are based on filed tax returns.

### 3. CHECK THE LINKS

Customers should not click on links or open attachments as this may lead to money loss, tax-related fraud and identity theft. Any website other than IRS.gov is not an official government website.

### 4. KNOW YOUR ELIGIBILITY

Only certain individuals are eligible for the child tax credit. Know the eligibility requirements to determine if you should be eligible to avoid unnecessary risk. Eligibility requirements are monitored by the IRS only.

### 5. DO NOT LISTEN TO THREATS!

The IRS will not leave a pre-recorded, threatening voicemail regarding lawsuits or arrests, nor will it call for taxpayers to verify their personal information in order to receive the credit.

### 6. CHECK THE FORM OF PAYMENT

Customers will never be asked to send the IRS money via wire transfer, gift card or cryptocurrency. In fact, there should not be any payments by customers associated with the child tax credit.

### 7. IF IT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS, BE SUSPICIOUS

If an inquiry seems suspicious, it probably is.

