

# URGENT IRS SCAM UPDATE

*The Washington Post* and *USA Today* announced May 24, 2016 that five suspects were arrested in Miami, FL on Monday for impersonating IRS agents, and scamming 1,500 people out of \$2 million dollars. The office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration said, "The suspects are accused of making multiple calls in which they claimed to be IRS or Treasury officials, told unwitting victims they owed tax debts, and threatened arrests if payments weren't sent immediately."

Although we do not know any of the victims in the Miami scam, we were informed by a client yesterday that she received a threatening voicemail from someone claiming to be an IRS agent. She was not sure if it was real or not, so she called the number they provided (605-210-3687). She spoke with a man with a very thick accent who said his name was Richard Brown, badge #IRM6274. She was then transferred to his supervisor who assigned her a case file number. She was threatened with the following:

- the IRS had filed a lawsuit against her
- there was an arrest warrant they were prepared to release
- they claimed they had tried to deliver a paper document of some sort to her in December (that she had never received)
- they said an audit indicated that there were miscalculations on her returns between 2008-2015 which they felt were intentional, and that she owed a balance of \$10,950, and quoted section 101 (?)
- they said she risked having her driver's license taken away and federal prison of 5 years

In addition to the threats above, they had her name, address, phone number and even the type of car she drives.

PLEASE NOTE, the IRS will NEVER call or email you; they will always send a letter or notice via USPS mail. The only time the IRS will call you is if you have already contacted an IRS office by phone yourself and you have given them permission to call you.

While the phone number listed above was the number provided to our client, you could receive a similar call from a different number. As a general precaution, please DO NOT provide anyone you do not know any of your personal information (social security number, credit card number, bank account info, etc).

If you do receive one of these calls, ask the person for their name, badge number, call back number, and note the caller ID number if possible. Then call your local police and the IRS at 1-800-366-4484 so that these perpetrators will continue to be tracked down.

