

BBB SENIOR ALERT

Tax Schemes Prey on Cash-Strapped Seniors

Advertisements - There are several ads on TV from companies that claim they can help folks who owe taxes or fines to the IRS. They tout how they are able to reduce amounts owed to pennies on the dollar.

Complaints received by BBBs state that consumers paid thousands of dollars for this type of service but the companies didn't or couldn't reduce the amount owed ... and some never even contacted the IRS.

If you have a tax debt - contact the IRS, a CPA or tax attorney to determine if you qualify to file for an offer in compromise or some other type of payment arrangement.

E-mails - Do not respond to e-mails "*from the IRS*". The IRS doesn't email people telling them they have a refund coming or that there is a problem with their return. These e-mails often direct seniors to a phony website that will then ask for personal information.

The IRS will not call you on the phone regarding your return.

If someone comes to your home stating they are from the IRS (or Social Security or Medicare) - **call the police!** These people are misrepresenting who they are - they will try to get your financial information.

Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) - "Just Say No". These are cash advances offered by the tax preparer. Generally the rates are high considering that you are borrowing your own money. If you feel you must take out an RAL, shop around for the best rate.

Before choosing a company to do your taxes,
be sure to get their BBB report.

**We can be reached at
(419) 531-3116 or toll free 1-800-743-4222.
All reports are also available at www.bbb.org**

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