



2017 IRS “Dirty Dozen” Tax Schemes

(Please click each hyperlink for more information)

1. **[Phishing Schemes:](#)**
Watch out for fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information.
2. **[Phone Scams a Serious Threat:](#)**
Aggressive & threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers.
3. **[Identity Theft:](#)**
Tax-related Identity theft – with its related scams to steal personal and financial data from taxpayers or data held by tax professionals – remains a top item on the Dirty Dozen list.
4. **[Return Preparer Fraud; Choose Reputable Return Preparers:](#)**
There are some dishonest preparers who set up shop each filing season to perpetrate refund fraud, identity theft and other scams that hurt taxpayers.
5. **[Fake Charities:](#)**
Fake charities set up by scam artists to steal your money or personal information.
6. **[Falsely Inflating Refund Claims:](#)**
Be alert to unscrupulous tax return preparers touting inflated tax refunds.
7. **[Excessive Claims for Business Credits:](#)**
Taxpayers should watch for improper claims for business credits.
8. **[Falsely Padding Deductions:](#)**
Avoid the temptation to falsely inflate deductions or expenses on tax returns.
9. **[Falsifying Income:](#)**
This scam involves inflating or including income on a tax return that was never earned, either as wages or self-employment income, usually to maximize refundable credits.
10. **[Abusive Tax Shelters:](#)**
Taxpayers should avoid unscrupulous promoters who encourage the use of phony tax shelters designed to avoid paying what is owed.
11. **[Frivolous Tax Arguments:](#)**
Promoters of frivolous schemes encourage taxpayers to make unreasonable and outlandish legal claims to avoid paying their taxes.
12. **[Stopping Offshore Tax Cheating:](#)**
Avoid hiding money or assets in unreported offshore accounts remains.

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