IRS on the phone

You hear it all the time. If someone calls you, claiming to be from the IRS, it’s a scam. The IRS doesn’t call people.

Well, that is absolutely false. The IRS has what is called “ACS” or “Automated Collection”. That is about all they do is call you and/or take calls.

Then there are Revenue Officers (RO’s). Their preferred method of initial contact is “in the field”. They will simply show up at your home or business with no appointment or warning. This is purposeful. See article, “IRS at the Door”. However, if they have a wrong address or you are not in, they will try to contact you over the phone.

Also, right now, with COVID, RO’s are not making any field calls, so all initial contacts are over the phone.

One thing they WILL NOT do is ask you to put money on pre-paid cards, pay a balance over the phone, ask for your card numbers, etc. Basically, if anyone asks you to do something that would allow them to get money immediately or give access to your accounts without any further contact. If the person is legitimate, they will offer several ways to pay your balance (any checks will be made out to “US Treasury”. If you are still not sure, you can always pay online through [**Electronic Federal Tax Payment System**](https://www.eftps.gov/eftps/) (EFPTS).

Lastly, they will never threaten you with the sheriff, police, etc.