



# ***SCAM ALERT!***

A Consumer Update from  
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## **IRS REFUND SCAM**

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The latest scam is a fraudulent e-mail claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service regarding the "Making Work Pay" provision of the 2009 stimulus package. The fraudulent email claims there is a refund available to the recipient that will be paid directly into their bank account if they register their bank account information with the IRS.

The e-mail contains links to register the account and to claim the tax refund. The link and attachment appear to be, but are not, legitimate IRS web sites.

The purpose of the scam email is to obtain your personal and financial information that the scammers will then use to commit identity theft. The scammers can use the information to run up credit card accounts, apply for new loans, and obtain other services in the victim's name.

Knowing a few simple facts will help protect you from this scam:

- The IRS will not use your email address to make contact
- Unsolicited e-mails claiming to be from the IRS can be reported to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov)
- If you have any questions regarding any correspondence from the IRS, call them directly at 1-800-829-1040

The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Jennifer Heapy, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit at 937-225-5603.

If you would like us to send *SCAM ALERT* updates to you electronically, please send your e-mail address to: [newsletter@mcpo.com](mailto:newsletter@mcpo.com) to be added to our distribution list.