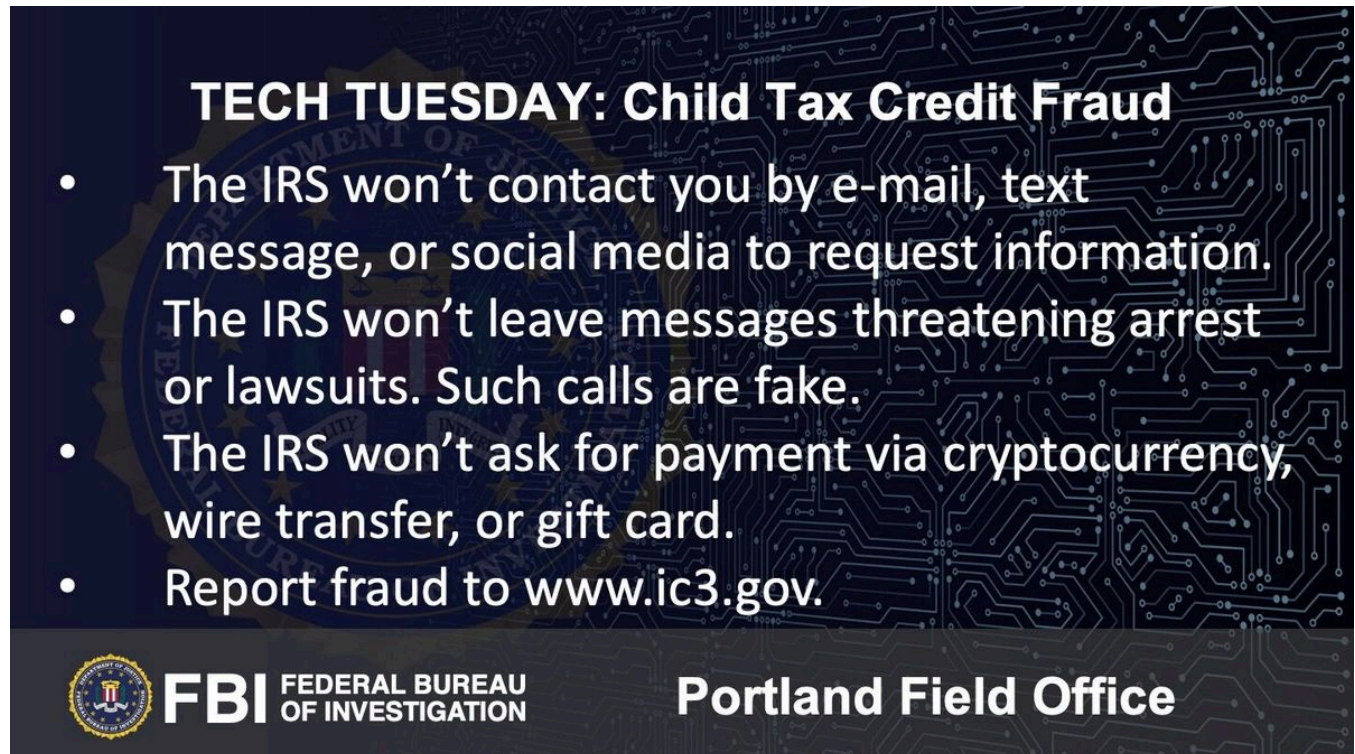


Tech Tuesday: Building a Digital Defense Against IRS Child Tax Credit Fraud

August 24, 2021

A graphic with a dark blue background featuring a circuit board pattern. In the center, the text "TECH TUESDAY: Child Tax Credit Fraud" is written in white. Below this, a list of four bullet points is displayed in white text. At the bottom left is the FBI seal and the text "FBI FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION". At the bottom right is the text "Portland Field Office".

TECH TUESDAY: Child Tax Credit Fraud

- The IRS won't contact you by e-mail, text message, or social media to request information.
- The IRS won't leave messages threatening arrest or lawsuits. Such calls are fake.
- The IRS won't ask for payment via cryptocurrency, wire transfer, or gift card.
- Report fraud to www.ic3.gov.

 **FBI** FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Portland Field Office

Welcome to the Oregon FBI's Tech Tuesday segment. Today: Building a digital defense against child tax credit scams.

This warning comes to us thanks to our partners at the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. Millions of American families started receiving the advance Child Tax Credit payments last month. If you get a phone call, email, or text message or see a social media post offering help you get these payments, watch out.

Any communication offering assistance to sign up for the Child Tax Credit or to speed up the monthly payments is likely a scam. When receiving unsolicited calls or messages, taxpayers should not provide personal information, click on links, or open attachments as this may lead to money loss, tax-related fraud, and identity theft.

Although scammers constantly come up with new schemes to try to catch taxpayers off-guard, there are simple ways to identify if it is truly the IRS reaching out.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers via e-mail, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information, even information related to the Child Tax Credit.

The IRS does not leave pre-recorded, urgent, or threatening messages. Aggressive calls warning taxpayers about a lawsuit or arrest are fake.

The IRS will not call taxpayers asking them to provide or verify financial information so they can obtain the monthly Child Tax Credit payments.

The IRS will not ask for payment via a gift card, wire transfer or cryptocurrency.

For taxpayers eligible for advance payments of the Child Tax Credit, the IRS will use information from their 2020 or 2019 tax return to automatically enroll them for advance payments. Taxpayers do not have to take any additional action. To report suspicious IRS-related phishing and online scams, visit www.irs.gov.

If you are the victim of any other online fraud, you should also report the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov]www.ic3.gov or call your FBI local office.