

Date: April 2016

Re: Immigration and Canada Revenue Fraud

In recent months, there have been an increased number of telephone scams requesting payment for fees, fines or outstanding taxes. The callers claim to be calling from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) or the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The following information has been prepared to help prevent being deceived by these calls.

IRCC

The department does not contact clients by phone to collect fees or fines to avoid deportation and never request payment by pre-paid credit cards or through a private money transfer (Western Union or Money Gram).

The IRCC does not, under any circumstances threaten to use law enforcement agencies to arrest an individual for not paying fees.

If have any concerns or doubts, ask the person for their name and confirm that the call is genuine by phoning the IRCC Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100. If the agent is really from IRCC, they will not mind that you are asking for verification.

CRA

The CRA may call clients to request outstanding income tax returns, supporting documentation for claims made on tax returns and for other income tax related reasons. A written notification does not always precede the telephone call. However, when the CRA calls to request payment of outstanding debts, a notice of assessment will have been issued prior to the call.

The CRA does ask for immediate payment for outstanding debts, but gives you the option to make payment arrangements like online banking and pre-authorized debit. It does not demand you pay by pre-paid credit cards or through Western Union or Money Gram.

The CRA will not ask you for information about your passport, health card or driver's license.

The CRA never leaves personal information on your answering machine or asks you to leave a message containing personal information on an answering machine.

If you have any concerns or doubts, ask the person for their name and phone the agency directly at 1-800-959-8281 to determine the validity of the call and any outstanding issues with your account.