

APRIL 2026

[IRS Tax Scams P.1](#)

[IRS Tax Scams P.2](#)

[Calendar/Recipe P.3](#)

## IRS: 2025 Tax Year: No Tax On Tips

**The IRS 2026 Dirty Dozen: 12 key scams to watch for:**

**1. IRS impersonation by email and text (phishing + smishing).** Scammers send emails, direct messages (DMs), and texts that appear to be from the IRS, often using alarming language and QR codes that direct taxpayers to **fake IRS websites** to “verify” accounts, enter personal information, or claim refunds. The IRS urges taxpayers not to click links or open attachments from unexpected messages and to report suspicious IRS-related emails, DMs, and texts. The IRS reported over 600 social media impersonators during fiscal year 2025. As a reminder, never click any unsolicited communication claiming to be from the IRS, as it may install malware surreptitiously. These links may install malicious software, including ransomware, on a taxpayer’s personal device, potentially preventing access to their files or personal information.

**2. AI-enabled IRS impersonation by phone (robocalls, voice mimicry, spoofed caller ID).** Phone scams continue to evolve, including calls that use computer-generated tactics and **spoofed caller ID** to appear legitimate. The IRS reminds taxpayers that it generally contacts taxpayers by **mail first** and does not leave urgent, threatening prerecorded messages, call to demand immediate payment, or threaten arrest.

**3. Fake charities.** Fraudsters often exploit tragedies and disasters by creating fake charities to collect donations and personal information. The IRS is committed to preventing fraudulent nonprofits from taking advantage of the American taxpayer. Taxpayers who give money or goods to a charity may be able to claim a deduction on their federal tax return if they itemize deductions, but charitable donations only count if they go to a qualified tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS.

**4. Misleading tax advice on social media.** Viral “tax hacks” can push taxpayers to file returns with false information or claim credits they don’t qualify for, leading to refund delays, audits, penalties, or worse. The IRS continues to warn that social media-driven misinformation and disinformation remain a major driver of tax scams.

**5. Identity theft involving IRS Online Account access.** Criminals may attempt to use stolen personal information to gain unauthorized access to a taxpayer’s IRS online account or may pose as helpers to collect sensitive information during account setup. Taxpayers should create their account directly through IRS.gov and should not rely on unsolicited third parties offering assistance. The IRS provides official guidance to help taxpayers securely establish and protect their accounts.

**6. Abusive undistributed long-term capital gains claims.** The IRS identified an increase in the abuse of Form 2439. This form allows shareholders of certain investment funds or real estate trusts to claim a refundable credit for taxes paid on undistributed capital gains. Identified schemes involve overstated or fabricated Form 2439 claims, including claims tied to organizations that are not legitimate investment funds or real estate trusts. The IRS has also seen fake claims falsely linked to real, well-known organizations. Improper claims may result in refund delays, audits, penalties, or enforcement action.



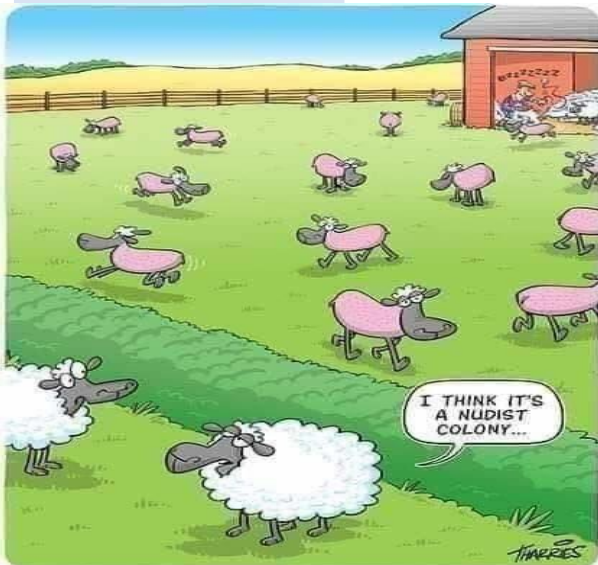
**7. Bogus "Self-Employment Tax Credit" promotion.** Scammers use misleading claims about a broad "self-employment tax credit" to encourage inaccurate filings and generate improper refunds. The IRS reminds taxpayers to rely on trusted sources and qualified tax professionals, not social media promotions, when determining eligibility for credits. Many taxpayers do not qualify for these credits, and the IRS is closely reviewing claims coming in under this provision, so taxpayers filing claims do so at their own risk.

**8. Ghost preparers.** A "ghost" preparer prepares a return but refuses to sign it and/or refuses to include a **Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN)**. When a preparer refuses to sign or provide a PTIN, that is a major red flag; the taxpayer is legally responsible for what is filed.

**9. Non-cash charitable contribution schemes.** Some schemes involve inflated appraisals of donated property using syndicated conservation easements or art. Promoters often promise to eliminate or substantially reduce tax liability. The IRS warns taxpayers not to file returns with made-up information and reminds taxpayers that it can hold refunds while verifying claims.

**10. Overstated withholding schemes (fabricated wage/withholding data).** Scammers encourage taxpayers to inflate withholding amounts (sometimes described as "other withholding") to manufacture a larger refund by reporting zero or little income on incorrect forms. The IRS may delay processing while it verifies wages and withholding against third-party records. Inaccurate claims can lead to penalties and enforcement action.

**11. Spear-phishing and malware campaigns targeting tax professionals.** Tax professionals and businesses remain targets of "new client" or "document request" emails that deliver malicious links or attachments to steal client data or access systems. The IRS and the Security Summit urge preparers to remain vigilant and to strengthen their security practices.



**12. Aggressive or misleading Offer in Compromise marketing ("OIC mills").** The Offer in Compromise program can help certain eligible taxpayers resolve tax debt when they are unable to pay in full, but "OIC mills" often overpromise results and charge high fees to taxpayers who don't qualify. Taxpayers can check eligibility using free IRS tools to avoid high-pressure sales tactics.



## Caramel Cheesecake

### Ingredients

- 2 cups crushed vanilla wafers (about 60 wafers)
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/3 cup butter, melted

### **FILLING:**

- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs, room temperature, lightly beaten

### **CARAMEL SAUCE:**

- 1 package (14 ounces) caramels
- 1 can (5 ounces) evaporated milk
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a small bowl, mix wafer crumbs and sugar; stir in butter. Press onto bottom and 3/4 in. up sides of a greased 10-in. springform pan.
2. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in flour and vanilla. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until blended. Pour into prepared crust. Place pan on a baking sheet.
3. Bake 30-35 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool on a wire rack 10 minutes. Loosen sides from pan with a knife. Cool 1 hour longer. Refrigerate overnight, covering when completely cooled.
4. In a large heavy saucepan, melt caramels with milk over low heat; stir until smooth. Stir in walnuts. Cool to room temperature. Remove rim from springform pan. Serve cheesecake with caramel sauce.

### **Nutrition Facts**

1 slice: 352 calories, 19g fat (9g saturated fat), 72mg cholesterol, 208mg sodium, 42g carbohydrate (31g sugars, 1g fiber), 7g protein.

Prep: 25 min. + chilling Bake: 30 min. + cooling

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/caramel-cheesecake>

## APRIL 2026

APR 1

National Greeting Card Day

APR 2

Autism Awareness Day

APR 5

National Caramel Day

APR 8

National Zoo Lovers Day

APR 12

Pretzel Sunday

APR 14

National Gardening Day

APR 16

National Angel Day



APR 19

National Poker Day

APR 22

National Jelly Bean Day

APR 26

National Help A Horse Day

APR 27

Woody Woodpecker Day



APR 30

National Oatmeal Cookie Day

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# Game 1 Word Search

## FORMS OF PAYMENT NOW ACCEPTED:

- VISA
- MASTERCARD
- AMERICAN EXPRESS
- DISCOVER CARD
- ZELLE
- CASH
- PERSONAL CHECK

C H J Y S F P N E X J K U Y G  
D N F P V J J P R I N T E R O  
K I U B K I P R V J B N B P T  
W Y G S C R A P B O O K A E E  
N Q K I E V J Z S V M P V G N  
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SCRAPBOOK  
DIGITAL  
PAPER  
PREVIEW  
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MEMORIES

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