Be Aware of Scams Regarding Your SSN & U.S. Taxes

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The Internal Revenue Services (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) continue to warn consumers to guard against scam phone calls and emails from individuals who’s intent is stealing money or identity. Criminals pose as the IRS or SSA to trick victims out of their money or personal information.

Several Yale international students have reported receiving calls of this nature in the past few weeks. Do not give any personal information to a caller purporting to be an IRS agent or SSA representative. Take their number and let OISS or Yale Police know of the call. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) offers several tips [1] to help you avoid being a victim of these scams.

There have also been reports of identity theft and social security [2] schemes that target non-citizens who might be anxious about their immigration status. There are a few steps you can take if the caller claims to be a U.S. government representative.

1. Never give out any personal information.
2. Ask for a number to call them back.
3. Ask for their name, the agency they work for and their ID# (however, please be aware that some scams are citing “badge numbers” of law enforcement officers)
4. Search that phone number online. If it appears to be the number of a U.S. government agency, please contact your adviser at OISS [3] who can assist you in determining the next steps.
5. There are additional suggestions on this web page [4].