

The IRS is now using **private debt collectors** for past due amounts two years or older. If your debt is put into this program, here are things of which to be aware:



- You will get two letters via US Mail. **The first letter** will come from the IRS and list one of four private debt collection companies, **CBE, CONSERVE, PERFORMANT, OR PIONEER**, to which your account has been assigned. **The second letter** will come from one of those four private debt collection companies. **BOTH letters** will include the tax amount owed, the name of the private debt collection company assigned, and a taxpayer authentication number that is unique to you.
- You will be instructed to pay electronically at [IRS.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments), or asked to send a check payable to the US Treasury, and mailed directly to the IRS. The private debt collectors working with the **IRS will NEVER ASK YOU TO PAY THEM DIRECTLY**. Anyone who says they're collecting for the IRS and asks you to make a payment over the phone - using a credit or debit card, electronic check, wired money, or a prepaid or gift card - is a scammer.
- These debt collectors will never use robocalls or pre-recorded messages. You'll always speak with a live person.
- They will always use the unique authentication number referenced in your letters.

*<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/private-debt-collection>*



## **HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE SPRING AND SUMMER**

### **SECURE YOUR HOME OR APARTMENT**

When you are not at home you should make sure that your windows and doors are locked. When you are at home, do the same - keep doors and windows locked even if you are "just in the backyard" or going over to a neighbor's house "just for a minute." If you need to keep windows open because you don't have air conditioning, there are locks you can install that allow windows to open about an inch. Keep your garage door closed.

**SECURE YOUR BELONGINGS** – Whether playing softball or enjoying a picnic in the park, don't carry your valuables with you. If you can't leave them at home, lock your purse, wallet and other belongings in the trunk of your car - never inside where they can be seen. Keep whatever you need on your person -- either in a fanny pack, front pocket or money belt.

If you are biking, make sure it is locked to a secure structure using a good quality lock. Keep a copy of the bicycle's serial number if identification needed.

### **SECURE YOUR NEIGHBORS**

Make sure your neighbors are safe. Communicate with your neighbors on a regular basis; participate in a Neighborhood Block Watch. Be especially vigilant with elderly neighbors during hot weather spells. Report all suspicious behavior to the police.