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Are Calls From the “IRS” Real?

by Klaralee R. Charlton

With scams consistently on the rise, we frequently advise clients that telephone calls claiming to be the “Internal Revenue Service” are fake and to hang up immediately. However, as of April 2017, the IRS has engaged private debt collection companies to begin contacting taxpayers regarding outstanding tax liability. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be collecting on a tax debt, what should you do?

First, ask yourself, do you owe taxes to the IRS? If the answer is, “No” or “I don’t know,” then the real IRS is not calling you. Procedurally, if you pay all the tax due when you file your tax return, the IRS has three years to review your return and contact you regarding changes. You will receive dozens of letters from the IRS either asking for documentation or explaining the mistakes they discovered on your return. If you do nothing, the additional tax will be assessed and you will then receive dozens of bills in the mail asking you to pay. If you’ve received no mail from the IRS regarding a tax liability, then any call from the IRS is likely fake.

If you do owe tax to the IRS, perhaps from years ago, then the representative may indeed be calling on behalf of the real IRS. Under the new federal law, the IRS is required to first inform taxpayers in writing that their liability is being transferred to a private debt collector. If you did not receive such a letter, then the call is likely fraudulent.

Regardless, if the caller tells you to do something that sounds unreasonable such as go to a specific retailer to buy gift cards or drive to your bank while honking your horn, the call is fake and you should hang up immediately. If in doubt, hang up and dial the IRS at 1-800-366-4484 to inquire whether the call was fraudulent.

If you find yourself facing a potential tax liability or have received correspondence from the IRS, contact our office. We have knowledgeable attorneys who can analyze your unique situation and explain your options.



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A client once called saying she just got off the phone with an “IRS” agent who told her to drive to her bank. While driving, they asked her to honk her horn so they knew she was actually in her car.

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It's probably impossible not to worry when your child is not in your care, but you can help ease those worries with a legal document to allow someone else to make decisions for the care of your child.

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Are Your Kids Covered if You're Away?

What You Need to Know About a Colorado Power of Attorney for Temporary Guardianship of a Minor Child

by Tanja W. Leung

Being a parent to a minor child is a 24/7 responsibility. However, sometimes situations occur where you need to leave your child in the care of another person. Maybe you have a business trip or are going on that first (and much needed) vacation without the kids to spend quality time with your spouse or partner. Maybe your child is visiting relatives for a few weeks without you. Sometimes it's not a trip, but simply a grandparent or nanny caring for your child when you're at work. Or your high school senior wants to stay with her best friend's family to finish high school instead of moving away for your job transfer.

It's probably impossible not to worry when your child is not in your care, but you can help ease those worries with a legal document to allow someone else to make decisions for the care of your child. Then, if an emergency does come up, there is less confusion about who can make decisions on behalf of your child, and your child can be treated quicker by medical personnel. In Colorado you can get a power of attorney for temporary guardianship of a minor child.

This document allows the parent/s or guardian/s of one or more children to appoint another person as a temporary guardian to provide care for their children. The parent can choose a family member, relative, or friend (basically whoever will be caring for their child) to be the temporary guardian. The power of attorney grants broad powers to this person, including health care, welfare and education decisions (but specifically does not grant the power to consent to adoption or marriage). Besides being able to deal with a child's medical emergency, the temporary guardian can avoid potential problems when acting on behalf of the child, for example, when arranging for medical, dental or any other type of care of the child. Medical personnel generally feel more comfortable dealing with persons who have been authorized to serve as temporary guardians under the power of attorney.

The duration of the power of attorney can be for a short period of time, like the duration of your trip or your child's trip, or it can be longer. However, the total duration cannot exceed 12 months. If a longer duration is required, you can simply update the power of attorney by executing a new document just prior to the expiration period. Although the document has a beginning and an end date, parents can revoke it at any time even before the end date.

If you're jetting off for an amazing anniversary trip with your spouse or simply want more peace of mind when someone else is caring for your child, please contact our office and we can assist you with a Colorado power of attorney for temporary guardianship of a minor child. By having our office prepare this document, we can help enforce it if anyone questions it in the future, for example, on the off chance a medical provider may not be familiar with this power of attorney.