

Be Aware of the "Distraint Warrant" Tax Scam!

The Ottawa County Treasurer's Office was recently made aware of a mailing that looks like it is from Ottawa County.

The letter was addressed to an Ottawa County property owner and mentioned an unpaid tax debt and it is titled as "**Distraint Warrant**" which serves the same function of court judgment.

The form of this letter was different than any other scam that had been sent before.

The document looks official on its face, but it is missing a lot of the information that an actual notice would have.

For example, instead of having both a phone number and mailing address for contact info, there's just a 1-800 toll free number.

It did not indicate which tax authority is requesting payment for taxes owed.

Another indicative sign that a letter is not genuine are the lack of data regarding type of tax owed and period.

In addition, the title "Distraint Warrant" is not a term used by the IRS or other tax authorities.

This is a complete scam. Be Careful !

If the property owner had called the 1-800 toll free number, the person on the other end would have aggressively demanded a credit card payment or ACH information over the phone and/or other confidential information so that they could carry on other frauds including identity theft.

DO NOT send any money or share personal information by phone call.

Only phone number,
no mailing address

Tax Resolution Unit
Ottawa County
Public Judgment Records
TOLL FREE: (800) 217-6178



Date: 4/4/2022

Letter ID:



Distrain Warrant is Not a
term used by the IRS or
state tax authority

Distrain Warrant

Doesn't identify type of tax
owed or the tax period

This warrant has been issued against the above named debtor(s) because of the tax debt that has not been paid in full. This is not an arrest warrant. This warrant serves the same function as a court judgment. The State Of Michigan uses the warrant in collection action, such as garnishment of wages and bank accounts, property seizures, federal tax refund offset, and creation of a property lien. To avoid enforcement, call (800) 217-6178 by 4/14/2022.

NOTE: Interest will continue to accrue until the \$16,206 balance is paid in full

This warrant acts as a judgment against the debtor(s) and is a lien on any property now owned or acquired in the future until the debt is paid in full. This letter has been sent to West Michigan Color Laboratories due to the unpaid taxes to State Of Michigan. Levying procedures will begin within 15 days of it's receipt. You must respond by 4/14/2022, you must pay in full, or call (800) 217-6178 to avoid action.

For Addressee Only
Violation Punishable by Fine or Imprisonment
18 USC 1702

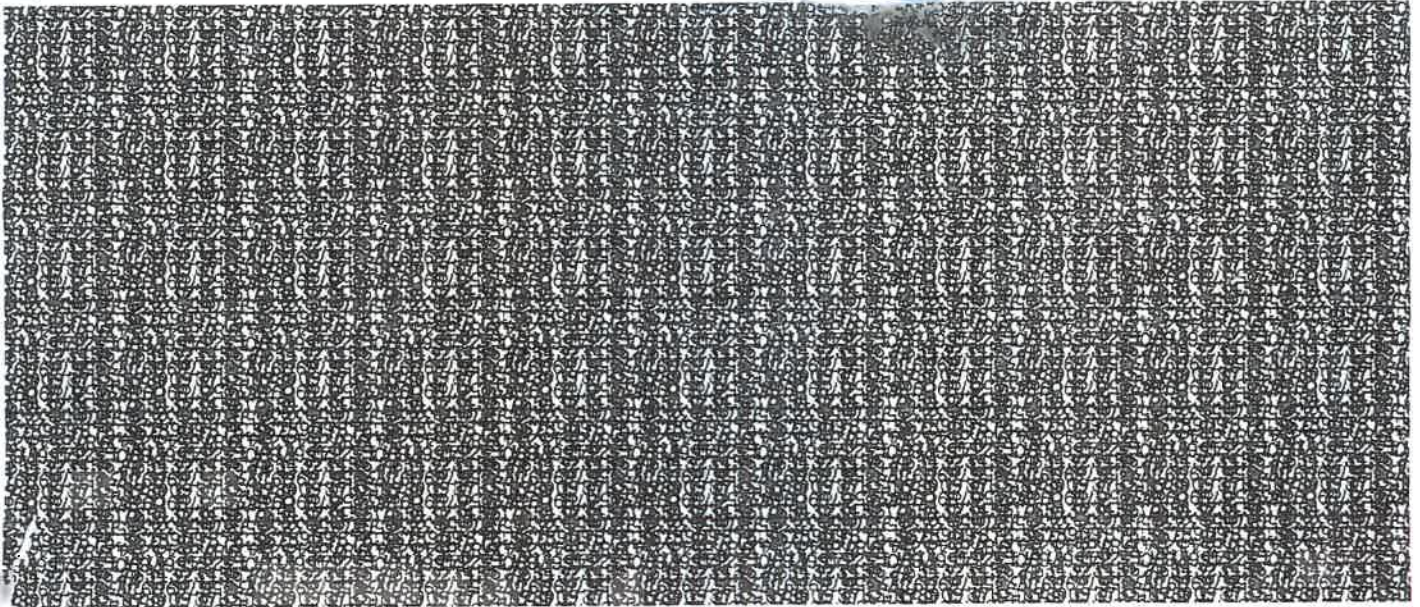


Tax Processing Unit
Ottawa County
Public Judgment Records



Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit #1693

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED



To Open This Side - Slide Finger Under This Edge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. J. [unclear]".

ASSIGNED RESOLUTION AGENT SIGNATURE

