



Dear Friend,

Hi, I'm Walter Burch, Editor-In-Chief and Co-Founder of TaxReliefCenter.org.

Thank you for your tax inquiry or concern. **Hopefully this letter will answer some of your questions and be generally useful to you in understanding help available to resolve back taxes.**

Over the years, we've received countless tax questions and concerns from individuals, families, and businesses overwhelmed with tax debt. If you are in this situation, **you may have received a collection letter, notice of intent to levy, or other mail from the IRS. You may be fearful of IRS collection action. You may be self-employed, have 1099 income, or owned a business that ran into issues** with setting aside payroll taxes.

Since every situation is unique, **the purpose of this brief letter is to address some of the most common concerns so that taxpayers can** take a deep breath, get some peace of mind and **be armed with information needed** to help resolve tax matters responsibly and ethically.

TaxReliefCenter.org is not directly affiliated with the IRS but **serves as an advocate and resource for consumers** to help remove the burden of tax debt.

First Things First: Don't Ignore the IRS

This may seem obvious, but it cannot be overstated. Many people who owe back taxes, or the IRS claims owe back taxes, are afraid of IRS action or collection action and do nothing in response out of fear.

This is a mistake that can unnecessarily cost taxpayers thousands of dollars.

The fact is, the IRS only has the information they have been provided. **They depend on you to provide additional information or insight into a particular tax debt** or they will simply assess the original tax amount AND penalties and interest unless you stand up for your rights and provide additional information if needed.

You may be facing an untenable hardship, you may have been unfairly assessed, you may be an innocent or injured spouse, you may even be struggling to support a growing business and fell behind on payroll taxes. There are so many nuances and conditions that can lead to tax debt that **YOU need to not only be responsive to the IRS, but also understand and stand up for your rights under the law.**



Many taxpayers aren't even aware that **if the IRS agrees that you cannot pay both your taxes AND your reasonable living expenses,** the IRS may place your tax account in a **currently not collectible (CNC) state.** (This, in effect, would be a temporary "reprieve" from collection action).



The Free IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service

It's also important for taxpayers to be aware of two important resources that are available under law to every taxpayer. One is the **Free IRS Taxpayer Advocate service** which exists to be **the “taxpayer’s voice at the IRS”**. This service was mandated by congress to advocate for taxpayers who cannot get their tax matter resolved via normal IRS channels, This service can be a valuable resource to help resolve disputes or even prepare taxpayer returns in many instances.

The Taxpayer “Bill of Rights”

Another important resource is the **Taxpayer “Bill of Rights”** which outlines ten (10) specific rights that taxpayers have. Among these rights are the **right to appeal an IRS decision**, the **right to retain representation**, the **right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax**, and the **right to be informed**.



What About Tax Resolution Services?

In some cases, where taxpayers are facing a substantial amount of tax debt, it may be important to utilize a tax resolution service. A responsible tax resolution service can help you take advantage of **“enrolled agents” who are authorized by the IRS to help resolve back taxes** on behalf of the taxpayer. This is in contrast to **IRS collection agents whose role it is to simply collect the tax debt**.

However, **be aware of fraudulent operations that “pose” as legitimate tax resolution providers**. In fact, if you receive an unsolicited phone call or inquiry without first reaching out for help, or from an organization claiming to be the IRS, do NOT respond. **The IRS will normally first reach out through authorized mail channels not via phone!**

In addition, **if you do consider using the services of enrolled agents and attorneys** that work for a tax resolution company, check the BBB rating or other credentials of that service and **be particularly concerned if the company promises to resolve back taxes for “pennies on the dollar!”** While there are cases that are resolved for far less than the original amount, these instances are few and far between and marketing of this sort is both dishonest and unethical.

When to Consider Tax Resolution Services

A reputable and legitimate tax resolution service will take the time to listen to you, understand your situation, then via enrolled agents, **work directly with the IRS to apply current tax relief code to help you get the best possible resolution**. This could put you in a temporary uncollectible status if appropriate, into a realistic installment agreement, or assist you in getting relief from penalties and interest.

The bottom line: Since tax resolution services using the expertise of enrolled agents and attorneys charge a fee for their services (often several thousand dollars based on the amount of tax debt), it makes sense to consider these services when the tax debt typically exceeds \$10,000 or more, especially if there are complex and extenuating circumstances the IRS needs to take into consideration.

For more information, we've attached the following links to assist you:

[A link to the Free IRS Taxpayer Advocate Services](#)

[The "Taxpayer Bill of Rights"](#)

[The Free TaxReliefCenter.org Guide to Tax Relief](#)

We hope this helps you understand the importance of resolving back taxes and empowered you with the information and confidence you need to either take action to resolve back taxes on your own or, in the case of more serious or complex back tax matters, reach out to get help from enrolled agents or attorneys who may assist you in achieving a favorable resolution.

Thank you,

Walter Burch

Editor-In-Chief

TaxReliefCenter.org

