



Taxland Newsletter
2024

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APRIL ISSUE

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

2nd QTR ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS DUE: 06-17-24

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How to Know if it's Really the IRS Communicating with You :

The IRS wants you to understand how and when the IRS contacts taxpayers, and help you determine whether a contact you may have received is truly from an IRS employee.

The IRS initiates most contacts through **regular mail delivered** by the United States Postal Service. If you do receive a correspondence from them and you are unsure, you should have it verified by showing it to a tax professional or calling the IRS directly to verify. The same goes for any state notices you may receive.

As part of a larger transformation effort, the Internal Revenue Service announced a major policy change that will end most unannounced in person visits to taxpayers by agency revenue officers to reduce public confusion and enhance overall safety measures for taxpayers and employees.

The change reverses a decades-long practice by IRS revenue officers, the unarmed agency employees whose duties include visiting households and businesses to help taxpayers resolve their account balances by collecting unpaid taxes and unfiled tax returns. Effective immediately, unannounced visits will end except in a few unique circumstances and will be replaced with mailed letters to schedule meetings.

IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel announced the change as part of a larger effort to transform IRS operations following passage of the Inflation Reduction Act last year and the creation of the new IRS Strategic Operating Plan in April.

"We are taking a fresh look at how the IRS operates to better serve taxpayers and the nation, and making this change is a common-sense step," Werfel said. "Changing this long-standing procedure will increase confidence in our tax administration work and improve overall safety for taxpayers and IRS employees."

What is a Desk Audit from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue?

A Notice of Intent to Assess (NIA) detailing the reasons for any proposed change in tax will be issued to the taxpayer if it is determined that the full amount of tax wasn't assessed from the verification of a tax return or review of DOR records.

A Notice of Failure to File (NFF) generally will be issued to the taxpayers if:

- The taxpayer has failed to file a required tax return
- Inconsistencies or questionable issues arise during a preliminary review of filing history.

Once notified, the taxpayer is responsible for supplying the requested information and/or complying with the instructions in the NIA or the NFF.

Such an audit is usually completed quickly via information letters between the Department and the taxpayer. Typically an auditor will send the taxpayer a notice requesting additional information about an item, or items on their return, or to notify the taxpayer of an error that needs to be corrected. The auditor's notice will:

- State the nature of the problem and an explanation of any possible changes in the taxpayer's tax situation;
- Ask the taxpayer to provide additional information or an explanation as to why the taxpayer disagrees with the proposed changes;
- Provide the taxpayer the date by which a response is due; and
- Give the taxpayer the name and telephone number of the DOR employee that is handling the audit.

It is important to respond to all notices sent by the Department to you, as failure to do so may result in being responsible for any additional tax, interest, and penalties found due.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE, CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO SCHEDULE A TELEPHONE CALL OR MEETING. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.

TAXLANDONLINE.COM - 413-782-8292