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Communicating with the IRS

by Jim O'Donnell / Trucker Tax Service, Inc.

I speak with drivers every week, who have contacted our office, after they've received a notice from the IRS. The reason for the phone call is typically because the IRS has attached a levy to their bank account, garnished their wages or the IRS has gone as far as attaching a lien to the driver's truck and sometimes their home.

If you don't complete annual tax returns, the IRS will electronically complete and file the tax return for you. The IRS will only award you a standard deduction, leaving you with an enormous tax liability that you don't actually owe. In some cases, a successful driver can have a sizeable amount of tax liability; however, if a tax return is prepared properly, the liability is rarely close to the number the IRS electronically generates.

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

If you receive a notice from the IRS, don't ignore it, it doesn't go away. As soon as you receive the notice, pick up a phone and contact the IRS. Believe it or not, the IRS is not the enemy. They simply want to have your tax returns properly filed each year.

Settle IRS Tax Debt

There are a few ways you can contact the IRS to settle your tax debt. You can request to set up an "Installment Agreement" which allows you to pay your tax debt via monthly payments over a period of time. This type of payment plan can be applied for online through the official IRS website, or by mailing a completed Form 9465 (Installment Agreement Request).

Another way to settle IRS tax debt is with an "Offer in Compromise" which allows the taxpayer to pay less than the full amount they actually owe. The IRS will consider this type of arrangement in certain circumstances. To apply, you must submit Form 656-B (Offer in Compromise Booklet) to the IRS.

Resolving Tax Disputes

If you are involved in an unresolved tax dispute with the IRS, you can contact the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) to get assistance from a local advocate. There is at least one TAS office in every state. You can find the address and phone number of your local TAS office by visiting the IRS website or by calling (1-877-777-4778). Or you can complete Form 911 (Request for Taxpayer Advocate Service Assistance) and mail/fax it to your local TAX office.



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Tax Questions? Please feel free to contact our office at: (888)-799-1099 or www.truckertaxservice.com

