



tax defense
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A Taxpayer's Guide to Surviving IRS Tax Debt

Tax debt is more common than you think, and you can **overcome it**.

“But in this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

– Benjamin Franklin

Ben had a point – owing taxes (and debt that sometimes comes along with it) is real, and can feel like a burden that will follow you into eternity. But owing the IRS isn't the end of the world.

Getting to know your tax debt (before getting rid of it)

When the IRS notifies you of owing back taxes, it can be due to a multitude of reasons, including: underpaid or underwithheld taxes, missed estimated tax payments, or adjustments to your previously filed tax returns. But how do you get things taken care of while keeping yourself out of trouble? The short answer to overcoming your tax debt is to pay back the IRS immediately. Fortunately, it's not too late for the millions of people who can't afford it to get help.

Common terms to know when you owe the IRS



Back taxes

If you have unpaid taxes, or back taxes, the IRS can collect on them. Back taxes can accumulate interest and penalties from the IRS if left unaddressed. You can prevent escalation of penalties like bank levies and liens by paying the amount owed immediately after your first notice. The IRS offers programs to help you repay over time. These programs prevent aggressive collection actions, but vary in effectiveness depending on your circumstance.



Lien

If you have outstanding back taxes, the IRS can use a federal tax lien to encumber your property. The government has power to seize possessions like your car or home if the debt is unresolved, but most liens come into play when taxpayers attempt to buy or sell real estate. Liens can also impact access to credit.



Bank levy

The IRS can remove funds directly from your bank account, or any account in your name, to satisfy your outstanding debt. A tax levy may have stringent time requirements, and immediate action and/or help from a professional may be advisable.



Wage garnishment

Wage garnishments occur when the IRS withholds portions of your paycheck to apply to your back taxes. Unlike a bank levy, a wage garnishment is continuous and can create serious issues for your financial situation, requiring immediate attention.

It's Not Just You

Over 8 million Americans are in the same boat

Millions of Americans owe back taxes every year, and over a million of those see further action from the IRS. Hiding from the IRS isn't an option, because once they have notified you of your taxes owed, they can act by applying liens, levies, wage garnishment or even property seizures.

In 2016 alone, the IRS issued¹



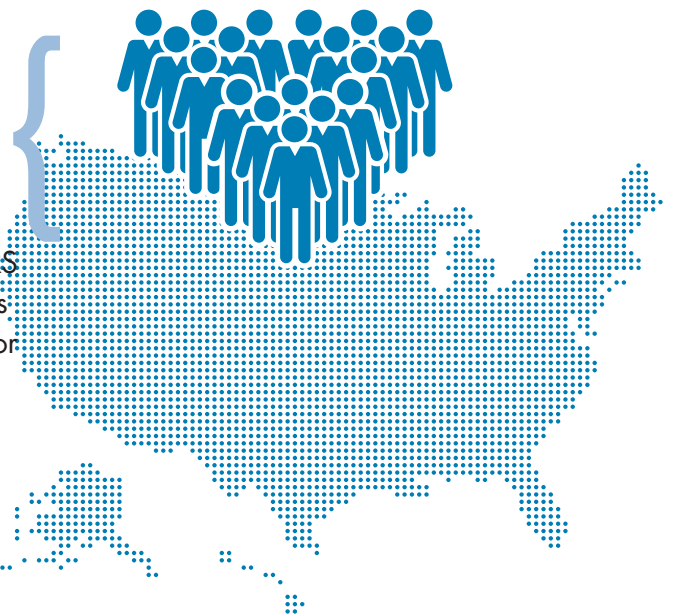
869,196 levies



470,602 liens



436 property seizures



Refusing to pay, hiding, or just putting off your full payment can land you in one of the same spots as 1.3 million people last year.

¹ https://www.irs.gov/pub/newsroom/fy_2016_enforcement_and_service_results.pdf

Taking things into your own hands doesn't always work out

Ever tried calling the IRS? They're overloaded with questions from callers – especially **when it's not tax filing season.**² According to the Taxpayer Advocate service,³ IRS hold times can average seven to 45+ minutes. Even then, IRS representatives won't provide tax advice or disclose all possible solutions. That leaves taxpayers out to dry (and uninformed).

Tax debt issues you may face aren't easy to resolve on your own, especially in the timely manner that the IRS requires. Instead, speak with tax debt resolution professionals who can see the whole picture, vet out payment options the IRS doesn't want you to know about, and resolve debt with federal and state agencies on your behalf.

Consider a tax debt resolution company with these qualities:⁴

- 1 Proven experience in the industry
- 2 A commitment to client empowerment, including a dedicated case worker
- 3 Better Business Bureau accreditation⁵ and good ratings on **trusted third-party review sites**⁶
- 4 Provides solutions to complex issues such as:
 - ✓ Federal and state taxes
 - ✓ Business tax solutions
 - ✓ Self-employment and 1099 tax solutions
 - ✓ International tax return filing
 - ✓ Trust and estate tax solutions
 - ✓ Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program (OVDP)

Even if you don't need complex services, a tax company's ability to provide them shows competency to handle your case.

² https://taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/Media/Default/Documents/2018-JRC/JRC18_Volume1_Preface.pdf

³ http://taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/Media/Default/Documents/2017-JRC/2016_filing_season_review.pdf

⁴ <https://www.taxdefensenetwork.com/blog/4-things-to-look-for-in-a-tax-debt-resolution-company/>

⁵ <https://www.bbb.org/north-east-florida/business-reviews/taxes-consultants-and-representatives/tax-defense-network-llc-in-jacksonville-fl-184747163>

⁶ <https://bestcompany.com/tax-debt>

Watch out for scams

The IRS will always give you **communication via snail mail**,⁷ whether it's to alert you of your owed balance, further imminent action, or if your account will be serviced by a private debt collector. Scam artists can take advantage of your situation, so know these red flags:

- Calling, texting or direct-messaging out of the blue to demand payment
- Asking for payment via credit card, gift card, or other methods
- Threats pertaining to seizures or other forms of collections

When in doubt, never disclose personal information and call the IRS or your tax debt resolution provider immediately.

Your tax debt doesn't define you, but getting it handled the right way can restore balance in your life.

⁷ <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>

Ready to resolve your
tax debt once and for all?

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888.379.7268

for a complimentary, easy and confidential consultation.



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