

Tax Resolution

from

А

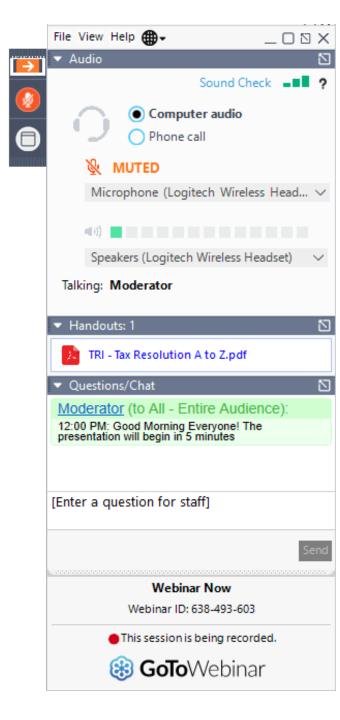
Appeals

to

Zero
Dollar
Installment
Agreements

On your right hand side you should see a dashboard...

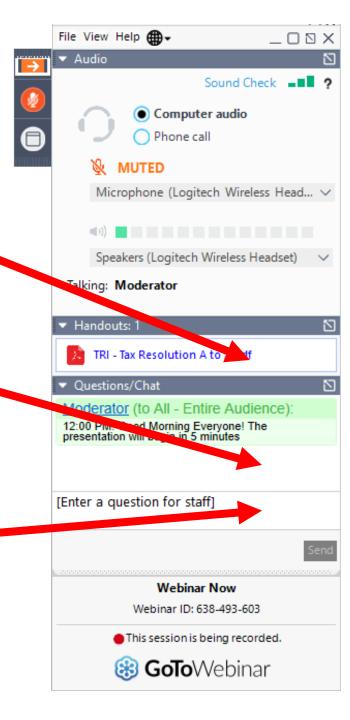
If the dashboard is minimized, click the red arrow to maximize it.





Bownload your and slides hershould see a dashboard...

Messages from us will appear here If the dashboard is minimized, click the Enter your questions redarrow to maximize it.







Today's Speaker

Peter Y. Stephan, CPA

Director of the Tax Resolution Institute



The Tax Resolution Institute prides itself in assisting accounting, legal and other professionals resolve their client's tax problems and grow their businesses

- Take advantage of one of our many programs
- We help you make more money
- We teach you how to become a tax resolution specialist
- We become your partner working side-by-side to fix your client's IRS and State income, payroll (collection issues) and tax audit issues
- Or...we become your trusted referral source

What Will be Covered Today

- Audits
- Appeals
- Tax Court
- Penalty Abatement
- Collections
- Installment Agreements
- CNC Status
- Offers in Compromise

- Solving Payroll Taxes
- Trust Fund Recovery Penalty
- Lien Removal
- Bank Levy Release
- Wage Garnishment Release
- Bankruptcy
- Tax Resolution Alternatives



The Audit and Resolution Cycle

(What will be covered today)



- The IRS serves two main functions. The first is to assess tax and the second is to collect tax. Audits deal with assessments.
- When deciding how vigorously to be in defending an audit, you must consider the prize vs the price.
- The same can be said when considering whether to take a questionable deduction in the first place. We call this playing the "Audit Lottery"
- Assuming it makes sense to fight an audit, you are best served if you know the IRS (and State) process and know what to do to mitigate the chance of additional assessments



access your free content at www.taxresolutioninstitute.org



Polling Question #1

Do you currently have clients with tax issues?

- Yes
- No





- Collection Appeal Rights
- Collection Due Process ("CDP")
- Collection Appeals Process ("CAP")
- Offer in Compromise Appeal

- Fast Track Settlement
- Fast Track Mediation
- Taxpayer Advocate
- Tax Court

access your free content at www.taxresolutioninstitute.org

CAP (Form 9423)

CDP (Form 12153)

Levy or seizure action that has been or will be taken	Notice of Intent to Levy and Notice of Your Right to Hearing	
A Notice of Federal Tax Lien (NFTL) that has been or will be filed	Notice of Federal Tax Lien Filing and Your Right to Hearing under IRO 6320	
The filing of a notice of lien against an alter-ego or nominee's property	Notice of Jeopardy Levy and Right to Appeal	
Denials of requests to issue lien certificates, such as subordination, withdrawal, discharge or non-attachment	Notice of Levy on Your State Tax Refund	
Rejected, proposed for modification or modified, or proposed for termination or terminated installment agreements	Notice of Levy and Notice of Your Right to a Hearing	
Disallowance of taxpayer's request to return levied property under IRC 6343(d)	You may petition the Tax Court post findings	
Disallowance of property owner's claim for return of property under IRC 6343(b)	Process takes significantly more time to reach a result than filing a CAP	









Use form 14017

Entire process should be less than 60 days

Can be initiated at the appeals level





Mediator considers hazards of litigation

Neither taxpayer or IRS are obligated to accept the mediator's proposal





USE FORM 13369



MEDIATOR ONLY VIEWS
ITEMS AT THE
EXAMINATION LEVEL



CANNOT BE INITIATED AT THE APPEALS LEVEL



NO OBLIGATION BY EITHER PARTY (LIKE FAST TRACK SETTLEMENT)



CAN BE USED IN SOME COLLECTION CASES

Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS)

Use when taxpayer's problem with IRS is causing financial difficulties to taxpayer, taxpayer's family or taxpayer's business

Use when taxpayer or taxpayer's business is facing an immediate threat or adverse action

Use when taxpayer has tried repeatedly to contact the IRS, but no one has responded, or the IRS has no responded by the date promised

If TAS does not respond within 1 week, contact TAS office via telephone

access your free content at www.taxresolutioninstitute.org

Tax Court

Prize
_{Vs}
Price



Change of a favorable result to taxpayer has a high probability Over 95% of tax court cases reach settlement prior to trial Most cases settle before trial



You cannot go to tax court if you have already paid the tax in question

Tax court meets infrequently and a result will take a long time

Small cases often take more than a year to decide

The percentage of cases won in trial by taxpayers is under 30% historically

access your free content at www.taxresolutioninstitute.org

Nominal filing fee

Penalty Abatement

Prize
Vs
Price

Examples of Penalties

Failure to File (FTF)

 Subject to 5% penalty per month up to a maximum of 25%

Failure to Pay (FTP)

 Subject to a ½ of 1% penalty per month up to a maximum of 25%

Failure to Deposit (FTD)

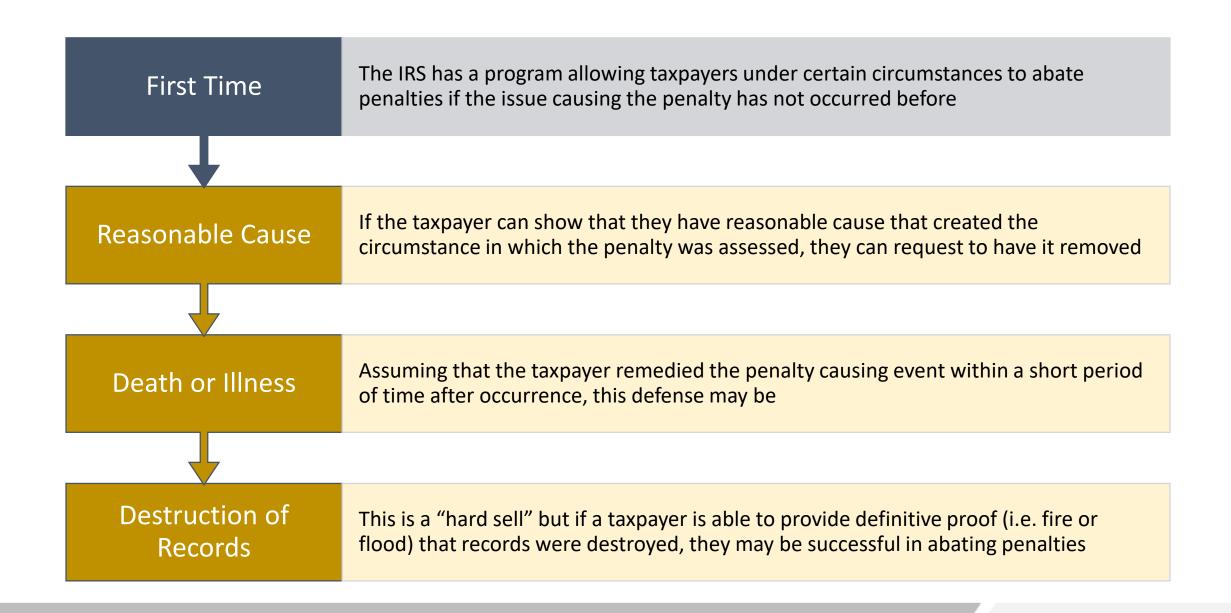
Applies to payroll taxes only

Trust Fund Recovery Penalty

 Applies to payroll taxes Assessed both to company and "responsible persons" personally

Accuracy Related Penalties

• (1) Substantial understatement of tax, valuation misstatements, transfer pricing adjustments and negligence or disregard of rules or regulations



Options to Abate Penalties

Successful Penalty Abatement

Department of the Treasury Internal

In reply refer to:

PENALTY ASSESSED \$3,300



Taxpayer Identification Number:

Tax Period: Dec. 31, 2010

Form: 1040

Kind of Penalty(s): Failure to File, Failure of Pay

Dear Taxpayer:

hank you for your recent inquiry of May 31, that asked us to move the failure to file and pay penalties

are pleased to inform you that your request to remove the failure to and failure to pay penalties has been granted. However, this in has been taken based solely on the fact that you have a good y of timely filing and timely paying. This type of penalty is a one-time consideration. The IRS will base decisions on any future Failure to the and Failure to Pay penalties on any on you provide that must reasonable cause criteria. You beceive a notice of penalty adjustment within the next few

to remote interest as well as the penalty(s) on your to law does not permit us to remove interest for the charge interest on any unpaid tax, regardless of reasonable cause.

tions, please call us toll free at 1-800-829-8374

write to us at the address shown at the top of stter.

ber with the hours we can reach you.

this letter for your records.

Too Much Information

I'm sure that moving through this material quickly will end up raising a lot of questions that we will not have time to answer in the limited time we have together today.

In fact, we may run over a few minutes.

I hope this doesn't frustrate to you.

After all, knowing enough to ask more meaningful questions is not a bad definition of what "education" is really all about.



Polling Question #2

What is the most common collection issue you are confronted with?

- Unpaid taxes resulting from inability to pay
- Additional tax assessed resulting from audit
- Notices pertaining to past filings or unfiled taxes
- Client's bank account was levied or wages were garnished

Become a VIP Member TRI VIP PROGRAM™ 2 Month Free Trial

VIP Membership 2 Month FREE Trial

Take advantage to receive:

- Consultation Time
- Free Webinars
- Free eLearning
- Free CPE
- Every Course on Demand
- Membership Discounts on Everything Sitewide

Check out the "Question/Chat" interface for a link to this offer!

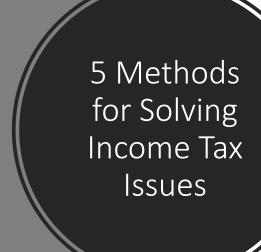
Collections

 If your client owes the IRS or State more than they can afford to pay, there are several solutions at your disposal to remedy the situation.

 Depending on your client's circumstance will determine which course of action you should take



Find out more at www.taxresolutioninstitute.org





Installment Agreements



Currently Not Collectable (CNC) Status



Partial-Pay Installment Agreement (PPIA)



Offer in Compromise (OIC)



Discharging Taxes in Bankruptcy

4 Methods for Solving Payroll Tax Issues



INSTALLMENT AGREEMENT



PARTIAL-PAY
INSTALLMENT
AGREEMENT



IN-BUSINESS
OFFER IN
COMPROMISE



HYBRID

BULK SALE &

OFFER IN

COMPROMISE

Installment Agreements

What is an Installment Agreement?

- A payment plan between taxpayer & Government
- Allows taxpayer to pay taxes in monthly payments over time
- Some agreements require the full payment of the tax liability
- Other agreements allow taxpayer to pay less than full liability based on hardship
- Taxpayer must be in and remain in compliance
- IRS has ten years from the date of assessment (statute of limitations) to "actively" collect

Streamlined Installment Agreement

- Taxpayer is in compliance and able to full-pay liability over time
- Taxpayer owes less than \$100,000
- Representation fees are lower but installment payments are usually higher
- If client cannot full-pay liability, this agreement will not work
- No substantiation required
- Must be paid by direct debit or deducted from paycheck
- A lien may or may not be filed

Hardship Installment Agreement

- Taxpayer is in compliance but cannot full-pay liability
- No limit on liability owed
- Cases often take more than 10 hours to complete
- 3 months substantiation required (more can be provided it doing so will improve financial picture)
- A lien is typically filed
- If client remains in hardship over entire collection statute, installment agreement is deemed a Partial Pay Installment Agreement (PPIA)

IRS Installment Agreement

IRS Installment Agreement

POA Copy

\$282,142 Liab

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Small Business / Self-Employed Division 225 W BROADWAY GLENDALE, CA 91204-1331

Date: 01/07/2015 Taxpayer ID number:

Person to contact:

Employee ID number:

Contact telephone number:

proved your request to pay your taxes in installments. Your first payment of \$100.00 is # TOOMO PAYMENT You agreed to make future payments of \$100.00 on the 28th of each following mor full amount you owe.

owe as of 01/05/2015 is \$282,142.05. This amount does not include vill charge penalties and interest until you pay the full amove when it was due.

thly payments to reach us by the due number clearly on your check of ith your next payment

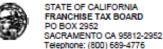
. എe government's interest.

. rILED

are government has a claim against your property to then you finish paying what you owe. We have the legal right

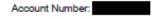
CA FTB Installment Agreement

AMOUNT OWED: \$86,289



Notice Date: 03/02/11

INSTALLMENT AGREEMENT AND ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT) AUTHORIZATION



√ovide



We approved your installment agreement for a monthly payment of \$650.00. The next step is for you to information below and return it to us in the enclosed envelope within 15 days of the date of this notice proceed with collection action. Interest and penalties will continue to accrue until your account is pair complete information will delay the process of your EFT request.

fter we process your EFT, we will send you an FTB 4024, Installment Agreement EFT - Ar will be charged for establishing the installment agreement.

Authorization

orize an electronic funds withdrawal for the above amount, from the ban __ (please specify) day of the month. The day must be the 1st throw or state holiday, the transfer is authorized for the next busines?

state holida	y, the transfer is author	ized for the next bus	ines [*]		
	2. Day for Monthly EFT Withdrawal 20	3. Bank Routing No.	_ bottom left of	Bank Account Number (This is the number after the bank routing number.)	
		GO a requier often	Savings D		
.ce a regular oheoking or savings account.)					

actronic funds withdrawal from the bank account identified above and I initiate and process electronic funds withdrawal entries to the above bank act until: 1) all unpaid tax liabilities due or becoming due during the course of this installment agreement, or 3) FTB receives written notice of cancellation of this EFT for to the payment due date.

*lebited from my bank account each month on the date specified in box 2. If this authorize the transfer for the next business day.

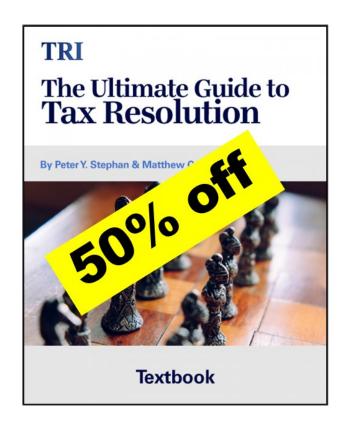
ank account because of insufficient funds or because my bank ent. In that event, I understand that FTB may charge me a esponsible for any overdraft fees charged by my bank.



Polling Question #3

Why are you taking this webinar?

- To better help clients with tax collection issues
- To grow my practice and gain new tax resolution clients
- To find a tax resolution provider as an outside partner
- For general knowledge
- For CPE



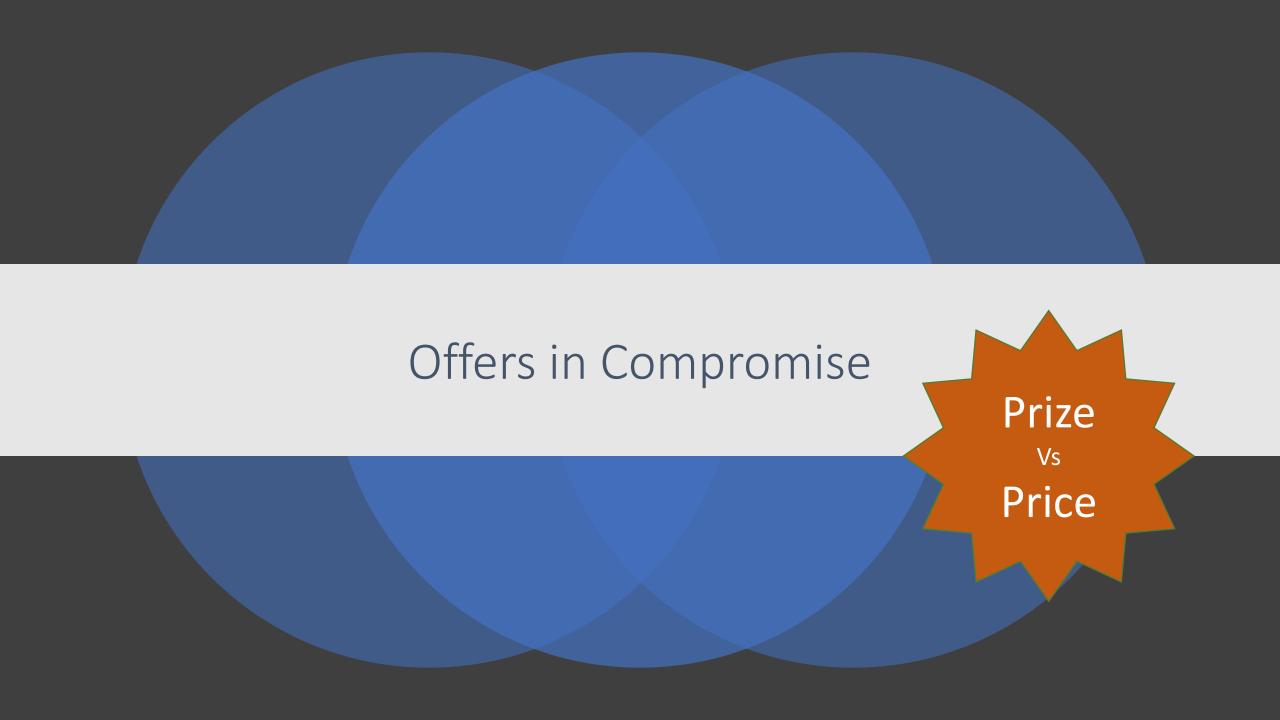
The Ultimate Guide To Tax Resolution

Learn how to practice tax resolution properly and effectively using this textbook written by Tax Resolution expert Peter Y. Stephan.

Over 500 pages, this textbook includes relevant IRS forms, contact information/phone numbers for IRS agencies/departments and so much more.

Save 50% on Hardcover or PDF textbook when you use promo code: ULTIMATE at checkout

Check out the "Question/Chat" interface for a link to this offer!



 A request to reduce tax liability by negotiating for an amount less than the full amount owed

- This type of settlement works well for taxpayers in extreme hardship
- The IRS has the authority to settle or "compromise" tax liability under one of three programs



IRS Offer in Compromise Programs



Doubt as to Collectability

Taxpayer is unable to pay their tax liability (accounting for income and assets) within the statute of limitations on collection



Doubt as to Liability

The taxpayer is not responsible for paying the tax liability in question and should not have been assessed



Effective Tax Administration

The taxpayer owes the tax, has the ability to pay (i.e. equity in home) but collecting from the taxpayer would be unjust











12 Times Monthly
Disposable Income
(MDI)

Quick Sale Value of Assets

Offer Amount

Offer in Compromise Formula

IRS Offer in Compromise

IRS Offer in Compromise

Amount Owed: \$4,240,000

Department of the Treasury

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AMC-Stop 880 PO Box 3 083 4 Memphis, TN 38130-0834 Date of this Letter: 6/24/2007

Person to Contact: Employee #:

Taxpayer ID#:

Dear Mr.& Mrs.

We have accepted your offer in compromise signed and do d by you on 04/19/2007. The date of acceptance is the date of acceptance our acceptance is subject to the terms and condition the enclosed Form 656, Offer in Compromise.

Please note that the conditions of the fer require you to file and pay all required taxes for five the years or the period of time payments are being made on the offer thickever is longer. This will begin on the date shown in the upp right hand corner of this letter.

Additionally, please of a der that the conditions of the offer include the provision the a additional consideration for the offer, e will retain any refress of credits that you may be entitled to receive r 2007 or for each tax years. This includes refunds you receive 2008 for any of a payments you made toward tax year 2007 or toward ier tax will the Notice of Federal Tax Lien will be released when ffer th until spaid in full.

are required to make any payments under this agreement, make k or money order payable to the United States Treasury and send

Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 24015 Fresno, CA 93 779

11 other correspondence to:

ternal Revenue Service PO 77 Memphis, TN 38101-0077

> fy the Internal Revenue Service of any change atus. This will ensure we have the proper status of your offer.

CA FTB Offer in Compromise

California Offer in Compromise

drait John Chlang member Judy Chu, Ph.D. mombo: Michael C. Genest

tate of California ranchise Tax Board

Owed \$462,011

12.19.2008

Stephan & Stein, Inc., CPAs Peter Stephan 21700 Oxnard Street, Suite 1160 Woodland Hills CA 91367

In Reply Refer To: 622:081:726

ubject:

xpayers:

ount Number:

ears:

1994-1997,2000,2004

Offer in Compromise

\$462,011.82 \$13,000.00

for \$13,000 in Compromise for the liability owed for the er shall serve as their confirmation of acceptance and should

ments to their account and have released all liens. Copies of the lien

`>n Code Section 19443, the terms and conditions for nuirements that he

New York Offer in Compromise

AMOUNT OWED: \$188,855



New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Offer in Compromise Unit P.O. Box 5100 Albany. New York 12205-0100

October 18,2013



RE: Offer in Compromise

Dear

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Taxation and Finance has a e e of offer in compromise contingent upon full payment of the agreed upon amount

Upon receipt of the sum of \$26.276.65, which includes the agree it pon thered amount of \$24.000.00 plus \$2.276.65 in accrued interest, the balances of the comprone to habilities will be canceled and any warrants docketed will be satisfied. The assessments includes in the Offer in Compromise are as follows:

Тах Туре	Period Ending Date	ssment Identification Number
sonal Income	12/31/2004	20, 3665293-6
nal Income	12/31/2005	2036665294-5
1 Income	12/31/2006	L036665295-4
Income	12/31/2	L036665296-3
come	i 12 20 1 1 2	L036491940-9
me	/2010	1.036551350-4
	19/31/2011	L038199659-2
	12/31/2012	L039109773-5

'e as follows: a S5.000.00 down payment due within 60 days of this letter, f S591.02 due the 15 of each month, starting February 15.2013.

"the compromise, your client agrees to remain fully compliant with any returns and paying tax when required for the next live years. Oner of Taxation and Finance will keep any and all amounts the tax law, through overpayments for 2013 or earlier tax between the liability sought to be settled and the reives in 2014

CA CDTFA Offer in Compromise (sales tax)

CA Sales Tax Offer in Compromise

[™]STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Owed \$118,379

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

460 N STREET, SACRAMENTO. CALIFORNIA PO BOX 942879. SACRAMENTO. CALIFORNIA 94279-00622 916-322-7931 - FAX 916-322-7940

www.boe.ca.gov

September 13, 2013

First District

SEN. GEORGE R Second Dist

MIC

Third District, Rollin

JERON Fourth Distri

roului Disui

S

CYNT

The Offer in Compromise Section (OIC) of the Board of Equality on (BOE) has reviewed y request for an offer in compromise on your current sales tax liability of \$118,379.57.

Ve will forward our recommendation for approval of very offer once we receive a cashineck or money order for the offered amount of \$1,727.00. The funds should be mailed to ress listed below with a copy of this letter. Thiday, September 27, 2013. The BOE with funds in a non-interest bearing according approval of the offer.

MAILINGADDRESS

Stat Construction Officer in Compromise Section 430 N Street, MIC: 52 Sacramento, CA 95814

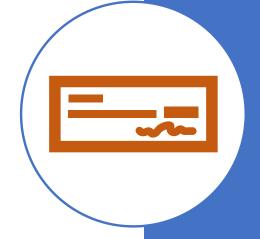
offer is denied, you have the option of having the funds refunded `ase select an option below:

ited and credit it to the current tax liability,

Solving Payroll Tax Issues

Payroll Taxes

- Companies with cash flow issues "borrow" from their employee's withholdings instead of submitting to the Government
- Section 6672 of the tax code makes the "responsible persons" personally liable
- The withheld amounts constitute a "fund" one holds in "Trust" for the government and was never the company's money to utilize

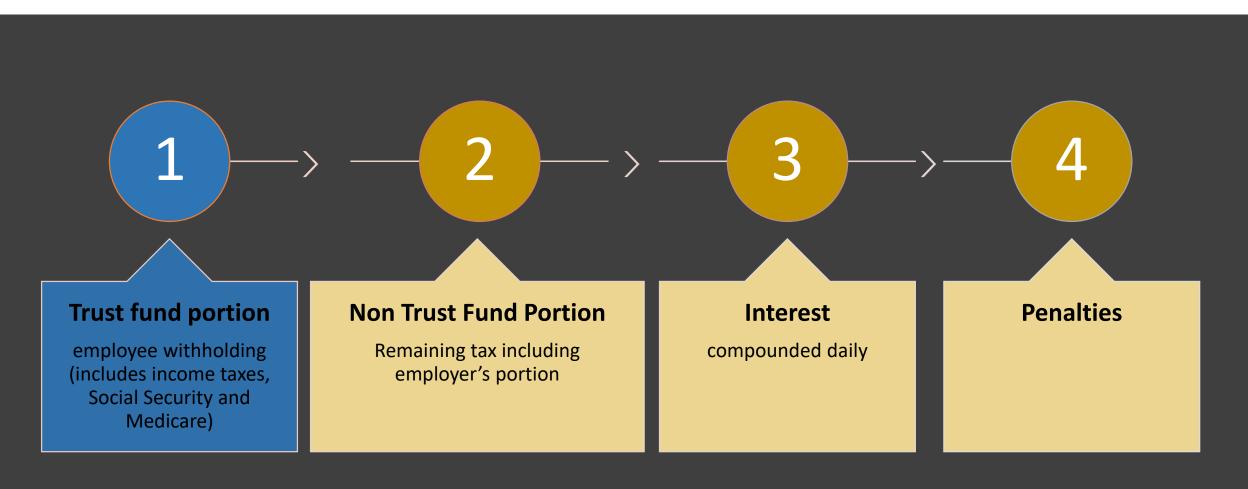


 A request to reduce tax liability by negotiating for an amount less than the full amount owed

- This type of settlement works well for taxpayers in extreme hardship
- The IRS has the authority to settle or "compromise" tax liability under one of three programs



Anatomy of Payroll Taxes





Trust Fund Recovery Penalty

- The IRS will pursue both the company and anyone in the company they feel is "responsible" for not remitting the Trust Fund portion of payroll tax liability
- They determine who is "responsible" by conducting an interview (deemed a 4180 Interview)
- If a person (or persons) is found to be responsible, the Trust Fund portion of the liability is assessed to them personally
- If the company will not be able to pay the liability, it is important to limit who is exposed as a responsible person





Polling Question #4

Have you ever prepared an Offer in Compromise on behalf of a client that was accepted?

- No
- One time
- More than once
- I submitted offer(s), but none have been accepted

Lien Removal

Prize Vs Price

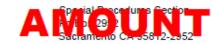
- Tax liens provide the government a "passive" means to collect back taxes
- Tax liens attach to real and sometimes personal property. If a taxpayer has no assets, a tax lien may not matter.
- Individuals and businesses have trouble getting financing with a tax lien in effect



Release of CA Lien

STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD Sacramento CA 95812-2952

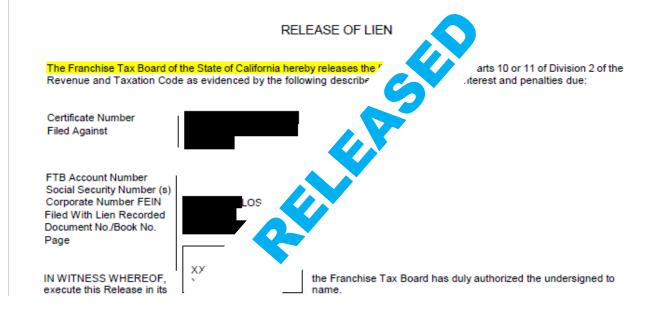
And When Recorded Mail to



A 100 100 100 FILED: \$27,914



STATE OF CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD



Removal of tax lien

There are various circumstances under which a tax lien may be removed. They include (1) full payment of tax liability, (2) expiration of lien, (3) accepted offer in compromise and (4) paying down or owing less than the threshold amounts in which a lien is filed

Subordination of tax lien

In order to obtain financing, most lender require that their position be higher than a tax lien. Under certain circumstances, a tax lien can be subordinated (placed lower in ranking) to the lender's position



Polling Question #5

In which of the following area/s would you be interested in learning more?

- How to fill out certain IRS tax resolution forms (ex. 433-A)
- Discharge-ability of Taxes in Bankruptcy
- Currently Not Collectible Status
- Trust Fund Recovery Defense
- Innocent Spouse Relief



New Year Special

Save 75%

With Promo Code: UPS

The Ultimate Professional's System

Learn how Market your practice!

Sell every prospect that walks through your door!

Streamline your tax Resolution process & ensure the best result!

Check out the "Question/Chat" interface for a link to this offer!

Release Bank Levies

Prize
_{Vs}
Price

- In order to "wake up" a delinquent taxpayer, the IRS will issue a levy on their bank account
- A bank levy freezes the funds that were available in the account when the levy was issued and after 21 days, the funds are remitted to the IRS
- If the taxpayer is able to prove that they need the funds to pay for necessary and reasonable living expenses the funds may be returned to the taxpayer



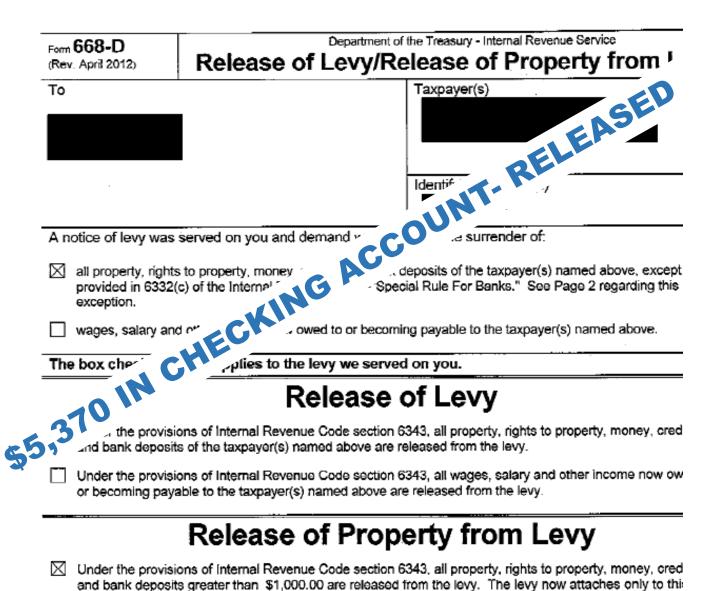
Some reasons why a bank levy may be released

Upcoming rent or mortgage payment (i.e. foreclosure notice or similar)

Upcoming car payment (i.e. notice of repossession)

Medical costs (i.e. cancer or dialysis treatments)

Bank Levy Release



amount



Polling Question #6

On a scale from 1 – 4, what is your comfort level performing tax resolution work?

- 4 (very comfortable)
- 3
- 2
- 1 (uncomfortable)

Wage Garnishment Release

Prize
_{Vs}
Price

- Like a bank levy, the IRS garnishes wages to "wake up" a delinquent taxpayer
- The IRS has the ability to require employers to withhold most of their employee's take-home pay, only allowing them to keep what equates to minimum wage.
- If the employer fails to enact the garnishment, they are held responsible for the amount not remitted to the IRS
- For most taxpayers, the amount they are allowed to keep is not enough. In these instances, the taxpayer will need to enter into an alternative plan (installment agreement, offer in compromise, etc.)



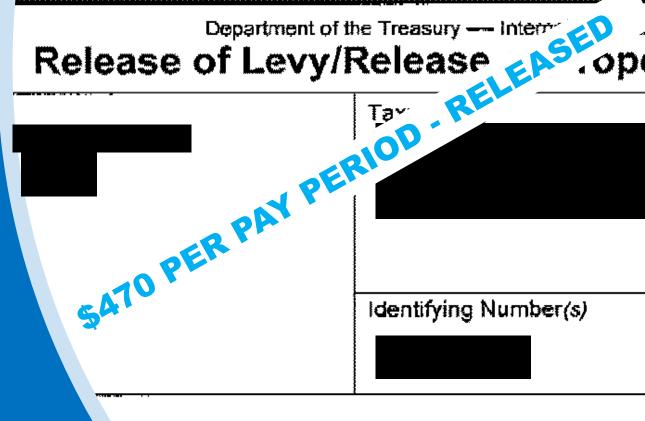
After receiving notice, an employer must garnish wages from the first check issued after 14 days of receiving the notice

Wage Garnishment Facts

In order to enter into an alternative agreement, you need some time. Do not wait until the last minute to negotiate a garnishment release

If you are successful in obtaining a release, be sure to have a copy sent to the employee's payroll department to ensure no garnishment is withheld

Wage Garnishment Release

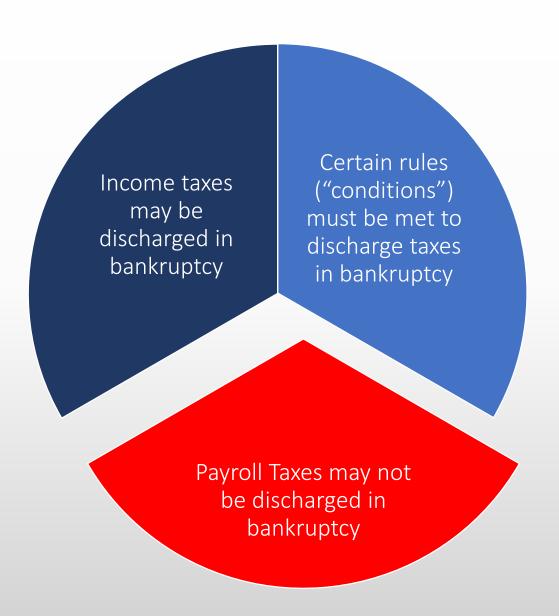


and demand was made for the surrender of:

v, credits and bank deposits of the taxpayer(s) r

or becoming payable to the taxpayer(

Taxes and Bankruptcy



Are Taxes Dischargeable in Bankruptcy?



THREE-YEAR RULE

At least three years from the due date of the tax return including extensions; or



TWO-YEAR RULE

At least two years from the date the tax return was filed (we say assessed) for delinquent returns; and



240-DAY RULE

At least 240 days from the date of assessment of an audited or amended tax return

Rules for Discharging Taxes in Bankruptcy

Examples of Tolling Events

The following events toll the statute of limitations

Number of days each offer in compromise for the applicable tax had been pending plus 30 days The number of days each prior bankruptcy proceeding had been pending after the related tax return due date with valid extensions; plus six months for each applicable bankruptcy proceeding

The period of time taxpayer spends living outside the country Number of days request for an installment agreement is pending

Tax Dischargeability Analysis

Taxes Discharged in Bankruptcy

IRS Amount Owed: \$612,201



This Product Contains Sensitive Taxpayer Data

Account Transcript

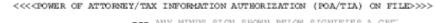
Request Date: Response Date:

Tracking Number:

11-30-2017

11-30-2017

TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:



ACCOUNT BALANCE:

ACCRUED INTEREST:

ACCRUED PENALTY:

A CPP

A

(this is not a -

0.3

Head of Household 1 915 949 00

STATUS:



Polling Question #7

Would you like us to call you to discuss an appeal or other tax resolution issue?

- Yes
- No

Tax Resolution Alternatives

Alternative Tax Resolution Options



Preparation of Delinquent Tax Returns



Bulk Sale/Transfer



Innocent Spouse Relief



IRS Criminal Investigation Defense



Entity Formation



The Audit and Resolution Cycle

(What we covered today)

What We Covered Today

- Audits
- Appeals
- Tax Court
- Penalty Abatement
- Collections
- Installment Agreements
- CNC Status
- Offers in Compromise

- Solving Payroll Taxes
- Trust Fund Recovery Penalty
- Lien Removal
- Bank Levy Release
- Wage Garnishment Release
- Bankruptcy
- Tax Resolution Alternatives

Our mission today...

1) Help you make money





- 3) Become your tax resolution partner; or
- 4) Become your trusted referral source

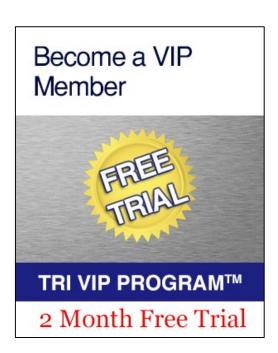
Find us on the web at: www.taxresolutioninstitute.org

Email us at: info@taxresolutioninstitute.org

Call us at: (800) 747-8718

Offers to Today's Attendees

VIP Membership

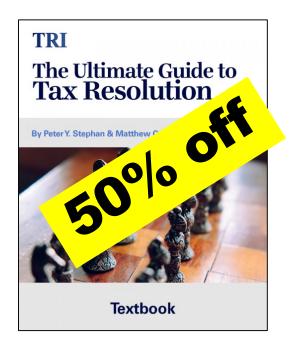


FREE 60 Day Trial

The Ultimate Professional's System



Tax Resolution Textbook



Use promo code:

ULTIMATE

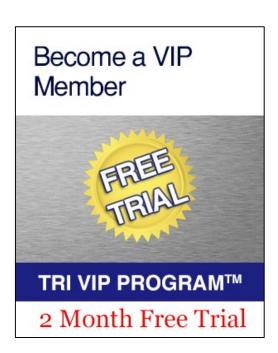
Go to www.taxresolutioninstitute.org to take advantage today

I'm Peter Stephan....

...and this is TRI

Offers to Today's Attendees

VIP Membership

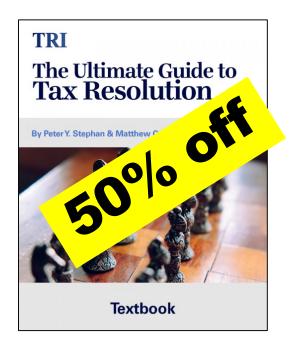


FREE 60 Day Trial

The Ultimate Professional's System



Tax Resolution Textbook



Use promo code:

ULTIMATE

Go to www.taxresolutioninstitute.org to take advantage today