

Be Wary of Tax Relief Scams

You may have seen them on television and the internet—companies promising to reduce your tax debt, stop garnishments, remove tax liens, or settle your debt.

Individuals in debt to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are regularly preyed upon by scam tax relief companies who charge thousands of dollars and deliver nothing. In many cases these scams involve a personal tax evaluation costing several thousand dollars only for the taxpayer to be told that there is nothing that can be done. The IRS has issued warnings about these companies.

If you cannot pay your taxes by the April 15 deadline, you should contact the IRS as soon as possible, as they will listen to your case and offer the best solution to your situation.

The IRS has many options for you to pay your taxes, including:

1. The IRS may give you an extension of time to pay from 30 to 120 days.
2. An installment plan that allows you make regular monthly payments until your tax bill is resolved.
3. Request an offer in compromise, an agreement between you and the IRS to settle your tax debt for less than you owe.
4. Plan ahead for next tax season: Adjust your withholding or increase your estimated tax payments so you will have a lesser tax obligation next year.

For more information about your personal income taxes and/or tax relief, contact:

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
Phone: toll-free (800) 829-1040

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR)
Phone: toll-free in MA (800) 392-6089, (617) 887-MDOR
DOR's customer service call center hours for tax help are 10 am - 1 pm and 1:30 pm - 4 pm, Monday through Friday.