

Resources for Taxpayers Who Need Tax Relief

IRS Fresh Start Program

The IRS Fresh Start Program is an umbrella term for the debt relief options offered by the IRS. The program is designed to make it easier for taxpayers to get out from under tax debt and penalties legally.

- Some options may reduce or freeze the debt you're carrying.
- Others make it possible to pay off what you owe in smaller chunks over a period of time.

The Fresh Start Program is a collection of changes to the tax code. It offers varying levels of relief and repayment options based on the specific financial situation of each applicant.

Read more here: https://www.taxgroupcenter.com/fresh-start-initiative/#gf_3

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA)

Phone: 210-212-3747. Leave a voicemail. You can also call the general intake line at 888-988-9996.

To be eligible for services, at least someone in the tax household who is benefiting from/applying for a federal tax benefit must be lawfully present. When in doubt, refer the taxpayer!

Services include:

- Help with IRS audits or exams.
- Representing people in tax court (deficiency notices, etc.)
- Stopping tax liens and levies
- Settling tax debts (including Offers in Compromise)
- Employee/Independent Contractor disputes
- Cancellation of debt issues
- Innocent Spouse relief
- Appealing Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) denial
- Injured spouse claims
- Answering tax questions

Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS)

Call 877-777-4778 to speak with an intake advocate.

If you are having tax problems and have not been able to resolve them with the IRS, TAS may be able to help.

TAS services are free. TAS cases fall into four general categories:

1. Where a taxpayer is experiencing some financial difficulty, emergency, or hardship, and the IRS needs to move much faster than it usually does. If the IRS doesn't act quickly (for example, to remove a levy or release a lien), the taxpayer will experience even more financial harm.
2. Where many different IRS units and steps are involved, and the case needs a "coordinator" or "traffic cop" to make sure everyone does their part. TAS plays that role.
3. Where the taxpayer has tried to resolve a problem through normal IRS channels but those channels have broken down.
4. Where the taxpayer is presenting unique facts or issues, and the IRS is applying a "one size fits all" approach, isn't listening to the taxpayer, or doesn't recognize that it needs new guidance for those circumstances.

Alternate contact:

Fill out Form 911, *Request for Taxpayer Advocate Service Assistance* and fax it to: 855-204-5023

or mail it to: IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service, P.O. BOX 149223, Austin, TX 78714-9223

If you do not hear back from TAS in one week, call 877-777-4778 to follow up.