

Non-Filer? Make it Right with the IRS

If you are guilty of not filing your taxes for a few years already, you are probably experiencing some issues with the IRS right now. You may have been getting notices imploring you to settle your taxes. Penalties, fines and even jail time are just some of the consequences of a delinquent tax payer. Before what started out to be a simple issue goes out of hand, you might want to set things straight now. At first, you may become anxious because apparently, you have broken the law. This eventually puts you in a dangerous position.

Filing the [un-filed tax returns](#) is the primary step to setting your records with the IRS straight. You should do this even if you have doubts regarding your capacity to pay for all tax dues, including applicable penalties and fees. You must also immediately file your tax returns even if you are due to a refund. Otherwise, if it takes you a long time to file for those tax returns, your benefit of getting the refund will be lost.

Consequences for not filing your tax returns vary depending on your specific situation. If you're a non-filer, cleaning up your tax records will make the IRS stop enforcing their collection strategies on you. In fact, many people who haven't filed tax returns don't really owe the IRS any amount of money. They simply chose not to file because they didn't have the time and knowledge on this tax obligation. Because of this, the simple excuse is now a major legal battle.

When you have come to terms with the fact that there's a need for you to file your taxes, it is always advisable to seek assistance from a tax professional. He/She will be able to correctly file your taxes and assist you in facing the IRS should any new troubles arise. His/Her experience in the field will be of great help to you too.

What information should you have and bring to your meeting with your [tax professional](#)? Everything. Just to be sure, bring as much information as you can and it will be the tax professional's job to determine which are useful and which are not. Your W-2 forms, any 1099's, receipts and other supporting documentation for expenses, social security numbers for anyone you are claiming as dependent and a copy of the last tax return that you filed with the IRS are just few of these requirements. Make sure that all these pieces of information are available to your tax accountant. The more information they have, the better will be your chances of successfully straightening out your tax records with the IRS.

The two main benefits of filing your past tax returns as soon as possible deal with refunds and Social Security. A refund can be availed of only if you have filed for the corresponding taxes within three years. Beyond this, your right to getting the refund will be lost. Essentially, this is like giving away your money to the IRS. If you're self-employed, [not filing your tax returns](#) would result to not receiving tax credits that can be useful in your Social Security retirement and disability benefits. The IRS will have no record of your taxes so they can't report your earnings to the Social Security, thus, you won't be given tax credit.