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e-news**



## **February 2022 Tax & Business Alert**



### **ANOTHER DIFFICULT TAX FILING SEASON**

The last two filing seasons have been the most difficult of my 35-plus years of having my own firm. The complications brought about because of the pandemic have magnified difficulties dealing with the Internal Revenue Service. It has been frustrating to both you as clients and us as tax preparers. The biggest problems have been contacting the IRS and getting things resolved with the IRS.

Just recently I have seen various data regarding unprocessed returns at the IRS. Some of the data indicates:

- 9.5 million unprocessed original returns (individuals, corporations and partnerships)
- 8.427 million unprocessed payroll related forms 941 and 941X
- 4 million unprocessed amended individual tax returns, and
- Worst of all - 75 million unanswered pieces of taxpayer correspondence.

These items are all paper forms. Electronic forms were processed on a timely basis. Anything that was mailed falls into one of these categories.

The IRS blames several reasons: pandemic-related shutdowns of offices, significant increase in resignations and retirements, antiquated

computer systems, extra work resulting from bills passed by Congress such as stimulus and advance child credit payments and inadequate funding.

We have had difficulty even contacting the IRS by phone. They admit that they only answered 11% of phone calls in 2021. There have been occasions when I finally got through to an IRS agent only to find they could not help me because computer system was down.

**Now, there are a couple of sources that can enable taxpayers to get information and even make payments, set up power of attorneys, and other actions.**

**One option is an Online Account.** The taxpayer can go to the Internal Revenue Service website ([IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov)). There you can search for Online account. It will guide you through the process to set up your own account to accomplish those actions.

**The second option is only to determine your refund status for your 2021 tax return after it has been filed electronically.** It is an app on your phone. You can go to the App Store and search for **IRS2GO**.

Hopefully, these two tools can assist you this year, so the season is not as frustrating for you.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Due to the Omicron variant causing a spike in the pandemic, we have COVID procedures in place effective immediately. If you choose to visit the office for an appointment with Jim, we will take the following steps to make sure everyone is safe:

- **We will be taking your temperature upon arrival, asking a list of Client Questions regarding COVID, and requiring that you wear a mask while in our office.**
- If you do not feel well or show any signs of symptoms please call us **ahead of time** and let us know, and we will gladly reschedule your appointment, or make alternate plans for a phone or Zoom video conference.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.\***

(\*Our staff takes lunch from 12-1 p.m., but a staff member is available during lunch should you need to drop off or pick up any returns or supporting documents.)



## **FEBRUARY 2022 TAX & BUSINESS ALERT**

- [GET MORE WORMS BY FILING YOUR TAXES EARLY](#)
- [3 FINANCIAL LESSONS OF THE PANDEMIC](#)
- [COULD YOU HAVE TO PAY A PARENT'S NURSING HOME COSTS?](#)
- [BUSINESSES CAN STILL DEDUCT 100% OF RESTAURANT MEALS](#)

We value you as our client and hope that you find some helpful information in this month's e-newsletter.

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**E-mail links for our staff members are below:**

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**EMAIL**

Rikki Gildert,  
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