

We Wanted You to Know

WEBINAR – [Tips vs. Service Charges: What are they and how are they reported?](#) – 02/11/2015 (1 pm Central – noon Mountain Time)

Topics include:

- Tips – Employee and Employer Responsibilities
- Tips vs. Service Charges
- Revenue Ruling 2012-18
- Form 8027
- Additional Medicare Tax on Tips
- Plus a live Q&A session

IRS Launches the [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#)

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Be sure and use the current [Form 656](#)

Use of outdated forms and instructions may cause a delay in the processing of your offer application.

Follow-ups from prior meetings:

Updated IRS Telephone Directory for Practitioners

Issue: Can practitioners get an updated directory of phone numbers for both national contacts and for managers in the various functions servicing their state: Collection, Exam, etc.?

Response: We provided an updated directory in December but there have been some changes since then. An updated directory will be sent to the practitioner organization representatives at the end of February.

Status: Open

Pervasive Telephone Scam

Issue: We continue to receive reports of taxpayers being targeted by telephone scam artists claiming to be with the IRS.

Response: Instances should be reported to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) via their website at www.tigta.gov. Information can be reported directly from the website using the link for IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting [The **RED** button].

Compliance Realignment

Issue: The IRS recently realigned its tax compliance organizations serving individual and small business taxpayers. Is an organization chart available?

Response: Organization charts and [overviews](#) of the four primary operating divisions and the other principal offices in the IRS organization are available on

IRS.gov under Learn About the IRS - [Organization](#). The [Small Business/Self-Employed](#) information has now been updated to reflect the realignment
Status: Closed

New Issues:

Online Payment Agreement – Where to send Form 433-D

Issue: Practitioner reported that his client tried to use OPA and was advised they needed to submit Form 433-D instead. No instructions were given as to where to send the Form.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The Form 433-D should be sent to the address listed on the taxpayer's most recent balance due notice. We will add these instructions to a future revision of the OPA program.

Status: Closed.

Unable to Verify Identity for Online Application

Issue: Taxpayer reported they were unable to use one of the online applications because they could not pass the identity verification.

Response: If you have placed a credit security freeze with one of the credit reporting companies, ask them to have the freeze temporarily removed. This will allow you to continue to register or use guest access.

Status: Closed

Finding Technical Support for Online Applications

Issue: Practitioners report having technical difficulties with one of the online applications.

Response: Look for the link to help or additional assistance in the application. If you don't see it there, check the Technical Support section under the [Help and Resources](#) tab on [IRS.gov](#).

Status: Closed

Form 2848 Rejections for Enrolled Agents

Issue: Enrolled Agents are reporting their Forms 2848 have been rejected because of the entry under licensing jurisdiction

Response: The July revision of the [instructions for Form 2848](#) indicate that, under Declaration of Representative, Enrolled Agents should enter IRS as the licensing jurisdiction and the enrollment card number in the block provided.

Status: Closed

e-Filing Prior Year Returns

Issue: Can prior year Forms 1040 be filed electronically?

Response: In Processing Year 2015, MeF will accept TY2012, TY2013, and TY2014 returns for Form 1040. Practitioners need to talk with their software provider / transmitter to make sure they offer prior year filing. This information can be found in [Publication 4164 Modernized e-file Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters](#).

Status: Closed

Odd Entries on Transcripts

Issue: Practitioner reported non-numeric information displaying in the “Amount” field for Estimated Tax payment entries.

Response: We are experiencing a problem and are working to correct the issue.

Status: Open

Campus Collection Fax Numbers

Issue: Practitioner reported a rumor that there are new fax numbers for Automated Collection Service

Response: Automated Collection System Support (ACSS) is a Compliance Operation, supporting ACS Call-Sites, resolving correspondence from taxpayers, their representatives, and/or third party contacts. ACSS now has fax numbers that taxpayers can use to submit documentation not available when discussing the case with the ACS representative. Only use the fax numbers when directed to do so by an ACS representative.

Status: Closed

Is Form 3115 Being Revised?

Issue: Practitioner reported a rumor that Form 3115 was being revised and a new short Form being developed.

Response: The Southwest Area has not heard of any pending revisions to Form 3115. Recent guidance defines Form 3115 and the Short Form 3115 as follows:

Form 3115.

- (1) In general. The term “Form 3115” means the Form 3115 most recently released by the IRS or, when permitted in the applicable section of the List of Automatic Changes, a short Form 3115, as described in SECTION 3.07(2), and any attachments to the Form 3115 or short Form 3115.*
- (2) Short Form 3115. A “short Form 3115” means:*
 - (a) only the following information must be completed on Form 3115:*
 - (i) the identification section of page 1 above Part I;*
 - (ii) the signature section at the bottom of page 1; and*
 - (iii) Part I, line 1(a); and*
 - (b) any additional information required in this revenue procedure or the applicable section of the List of Automatic Changes to be attached to or included with a Form 3115.*

Practitioners may want to review the following guidance:

[Rev. Proc. 2015–13](#) updates and revises the general procedures under § 446(e) of the Internal Revenue Code and § 1.446–1(e) of the Income Tax Regulations to obtain the consent of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (Commissioner) to change a method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. Specifically, this revenue procedure provides the general procedures to obtain the advance (non-automatic) consent of the Commissioner to change a method of accounting and provides the procedures to obtain the automatic consent of the Commissioner to change a method of accounting described in Rev. Proc. 2015–14, 2015–5 I.R.B. 450 (or successor) (List of Automatic Changes).

[Rev. Proc. 2015-14](#) provides the List of Automatic Changes to which the automatic change procedures in Rev. Proc. 2015-13, 2015-5 I.R.B. 419, (or successor) apply. The definitions in section 3 of Rev. Proc. 2015-13 apply to this revenue procedure.

Both Revenue Procedures can be found in [Internal Revenue Bulletin: 2015-5](#) published February 2, 2015.

Status: Closed

Guidance Regarding Deduction and Capitalization of Expenditures Related to Tangible Property

Issue: Practitioners requested a link to the final regulations.

Response: TD 9636 was published on October 21, 2013 in [Internal Revenue Bulletin: 2013-43](#).

Status: Closed