TAX DISPATCH

Volume 10, Number 1

Urgent Notice to All Tax Practitioners

Please note that if your client has been denied renewal of a Registered Retail Merchant Certificate (RRMC) or issued a Best Information Available (BIA) billing for unpaid taxes, yet your client claims to have closed his or her business, please contact the Indiana Department of Revenue immediately. Your client may be eligible for a brief hold.

To qualify for a hold on your client's account, the taxpayer or their legal representative must contact the Department of Revenue immediately at 317-233-4017, or e-mail the hold request to tartis@dor.in.gov Each request must include the taxpayer's RRMC case number or the BIA notice number. **Holds will only be honored until May 17, 2007**.

For those businesses that have closed, but are not on record with the Department of Revenue as having done so, they should use the following link to complete a BC-100 form indicating the specifics of the business closing: www.in.gov/dor/taxforms/pdfs/bc-100.pdf The BC-100 form should be faxed immediately to 317-232-1021.

Saving for College Really Pays Off

On Jan. 1, 2007, a new tax-credit went into effect that will not only have parents reaping the benefits, but also their children. The new law provides an adjusted gross-income tax credit to an account owner who invests in an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Savings Plan.

An account owner can be an individual, an emancipated minor, a trust, an estate, a partnership, an association, a company, a corporation, or a qualified custodian. The account owner will be eligible for a credit in the amount of 20 percent of the contribution or $1,000, whichever is less.

Information Bulletin 98 has more information about this plan. To find out how to set up an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Savings Plan, simply go to www.collegechoiceplan.com

View Estimated Payments Online

The Department of Revenue recently added a new feature to its Web site that should save taxpayers and tax practitioners a lot of time. On Jan. 26, the Department updated the ePay option with a new feature that now allows taxpayers to view their estimated tax payment history online.

"We've wanted to do this for a long time," said Kathy Klinkose, customer contact manager. "This is going to be a real convenience for both taxpayers and tax practitioners. They can now access this information on their own rather than calling the Department of Revenue."

ePay also added two other new features. Taxpayers can now pay their corporate estimated tax and extension payments online. Previously, ePay only accepted individual estimated tax and extension payments. In addition, both corporate and individual taxpayers can make a payment on one or multiple liabilities or cases with the Department of Revenue. Before, ePay only accepted payment on one liability or case at a time.

To access ePay, click here.

Department Offers Tax Talk – Individual Income Tax Blog

The Department of Revenue recently launched Tax Talk, a blog designed to give you relevant information on individual and business taxes.

"The blog enables us to speak to the public in a more straight-forward manner," said Diane Blankenship, the Department's individual-income tax guru and host of Tax Talk. "It also allows us to focus our communication on issues that are most pertinent to taxpayers and practitioners."

Since the blog's launch in late February, more than 6,700 taxpayers have visited the site, with the biggest volume of readers on April 16 and 17, with 473 and 412 unique visitors respectively.

"Though the blog was originally intended to cover only individual income-tax topics, the level of taxpayer interest we've experienced has caused us to rethink that original plan," said Stephanie McFarland, director of public relations. The Department will continue the blog on a bi-weekly basis throughout the remainder of the year, covering a business-tax series throughout the summer and new tax legislation in the fall.

"In January 2008, Diane will be back up to the plate on a weekly basis to cover more individual income-tax topics," said McFarland.

Throughout the 2007 individual income-tax season, Tax Talk covered topics such as an extension for time to file, use tax, CollegeChoice 529 Investment Plan, county income tax and an I-File update.

The Department would greatly appreciate topic ideas from practitioners, who are some of the best sources for finding commonalities in client questions and concerns. To share your ideas, please e-mail them to feedback@dor.in.gov

GET YOUR STATE TAX NEWS FASTER

If you would like to receive an e-mail notification when each new issue of the Indiana Tax Dispatch is posted to the Department's Web site, please send an e-mail to Shannon Sutterfield.

The Department has updated the following Commissioner's Directives and Information Bulletins since the December 2006 issue of the *Tax Dispatch:*

Commissioner's Directives:

Excess Tax Payments Procedure for Refund and Payment of Interest

Taxation of Indiana Residents with Pass Through Income from Another State

Information Bulletins

Sales Tax

Warranties and Maintenance Contracts

Auctions/Casual Sales Exemption Rules

Indiana Sales or Use Tax on Watercraft

FORM DESIGN SUGGESTIONS

Do you think you could design a better tax form or booklet? Please send your individual tax suggestions to **Diane Blankenship** and corporate tax suggestions to **John Sundt**.

Indiana Department of Revenue Contact Information

Telephone Assistance

- Individual Income Tax Information: 317-232-2240
- Sales Tax Information: 317-233-4015
- Withholding Tax Information: 317-233-4016
- Corporate Tax Information: 317-615-2662
- Practitioner's Hotline: 317-233-4017
- Collection/Liability Inquiries: 317-232-2165
- Tax Forms Order Line: 317-615-2581
- Motor Carrier Services: 317-615-7200
- Telephone Device for the Deaf: 317-232-4952

Refund Status

- Automated Information Line: 317-233-4018
- Web site: https://secure.in.gov/apps/dor/tax/refund/

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