

THE IRS TATTLER

OKLAHOMA



Travis W. Watkins, Principal & Senior Attorney



TRAVIS W. WATKINS

TAX RESOLUTION AND ACCOUNTING FIRM

"WHEN DEALING WITH THE IRS, SHOULD YOU REPRESENT YOURSELF?"

FROM THE OKLAHOMAN: Oklahoma tax lawyer, Travis Watkins warns taxpayers who want to represent themselves."

Every year, thousands of people face an audit, levy, lien, or other collection effort by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Dealing with the IRS is serious business. The average person doesn't know where to start when faced with a tax issue. Do you try to represent yourself, or do you seek the assistance of a professional tax attorney?

"You may think you can do it alone, but you may not fare as well as you initially think," said Travis Watkins, an Oklahoma City tax attorney.

"We often get calls from folks that have tried representing themselves and it didn't go so well. You may think you have nothing to hide and the IRS employee may seem helpful, but without knowing any of your rights and privileges with the IRS and tax laws it can get complicated," he said.

For instance, more than half the referrals to the IRS' Criminal Investigation Division are from IRS field auditors performing "routine audits," Watkins added.

IRS agents are experts in understanding tax law, and the rights and powers that they possess. Audits and collection actions from the IRS begin with a written notice from the agency to the recipient, the taxpayer. Once a notice is received, the ball is in the taxpayer's court how to respond to and prepare for the proposed IRS action.

"Usually, the IRS is demanding payment from you for a reason," Watkins said. "They use an automated computer system that creates and sends collection notices."

IRS notices may escalate in severity based on lack of action on the taxpayer's behalf. Certain notices open avenues for collection alternatives. No tax burden should be underrepresented, Watkins said.

Should you represent yourself?

"You probably are expecting that I will say, 'Absolutely, you better hire an attorney.' Well, I'm here to tell you that may not be the case. There are some situations where you may do better with the IRS than having a representative," Watkins said.

Some instances when it may be okay to represent yourself would be, if you have received a paper audit from the IRS asking to prove to them why a certain expense is valid or why your numbers don't match with their numbers, he said.

"If you owe less than about \$2,500, it's probably not cost-effective for you to hire an attorney or a tax representative in that case," Watkins said.

There are, however, some situations in which you should hire a tax attorney. "You really don't want to handle payroll tax issues, for example, if you're a small or large employer," Watkins said. "You want to hire a

representative, someone who works with the IRS every day, because the IRS is very severe when you owe payroll tax to the IRS. You want to be on a level playing field when in this situation," he added.

How does a tax attorney help?

The best defense against an industrious IRS employee is a tax professional who deals with IRS collections every day. A tax attorney, like Watkins, is trained to understand the tax as well as your rights when you owe or may owe under an IRS audit.

"The first order of business is filing old tax returns," Watkins said. "My firm creates a customizable plan that we can execute, based on the master tax file the IRS keeps on every taxpayer."

Additionally, a tax attorney can help stop immediate threats to taxpayer's livelihood, such as levies, liens, and seizures of property, Watkins said. "We hear across the board that because of tax problems, troubled taxpayers can't sleep at night," he said.

Is going it alone really cheaper?

Many people steer away from hiring a tax attorney because they fear the cost. "The cost of a tax attorney should not scare you," Watkins said. "A common misconception is that you can't afford to hire an attorney."

You'll want to know what you're going to be investing in with your tax attorney and get a fixed fee, a flat fee is you can," he said. "The sky is the limit if an outfit charges by the hour, because they will be sitting on hold at an hourly rate and be completely cost ineffective for the taxpayer."

Watkins said his firm saves clients time and money by using a proprietary software that dials the IRS continually throughout the day and guarantees they can speak with an IRS representative within five minutes. "That will put the taxpayer ahead of the game from the very beginning," he said.

Travis Watkins is an Oklahoma Tax Attorney who helps taxpayers end IRS problems for good. In 2018-19, his firm, Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution & Accounting Firm was awarded The Oklahoman's Reader's Choice Award for Best Tax Attorney. Mr. Watkins has earned the designation Certified Tax Resolution Specialist from the American Society of Tax Problem Solvers, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping taxpayers solve IRS problems. For more information, visit TravisWatkinsTax.com or call 866-224-3309.



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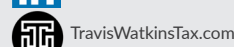
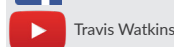
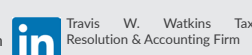
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Stay up to date (live) with the latest tax information from Travis himself. To follow all news stories about the IRS/tax news stories throughout all platforms (TV, Tax Tip Tuesday, Press Releases, Podcast, Latest News Articles, etc.) with Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

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Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution & Accounting Firm will be honored as one of Central Oklahoma's fastest-growing private companies at the annual Metro 50 Awards Banquet. The Metro 50 Award allows both emerging companies, as well as companies that have exhibited a substantial history as an established business, to be recognized.



SOLVE YOUR IRS PROBLEM

WITH
**Travis
Watkins**



Have you heard our new podcast yet? It's called "Solve your IRS Problem with Travis Watkins". We are listed on all of the major platforms, such as Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher and more! We release new episodes every Friday, so be sure to like and subscribe to the podcast on your preferred platform! This podcast will give real world IRS advice, tax tips and more to help you get started on your path to financial freedom, today!



You've been asking and we have delivered! Here at the Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution and Accounting Firm, we are always striving to better serve our clients. This is why we are pleased to announce that we are now open on Saturday's from 9am-3pm!

We know that life can get busy and chaotic from time to time when you're dealing with work, loved ones, friends, family and other obligations, so that is why our office will now be open! If you've been procrastinating about tackling your IRS problem, now is the perfect time to face it head on! Call 866-224-3309 or visit TravisWatkinsTax.com to get started, TODAY!

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Recently, a retired government worker that was making ends meet through his monthly Social Security benefits contacted us after he found himself in an extremely difficult situation! He had got behind in filing taxes and the IRS slapped a levy on his only income that he and his wife live off of. Fearful that he wouldn't be able to pay for life's basic necessities, he quickly retained our services and we were able to get the levy released from his Social Security benefits. Now, we are able to negotiate with the IRS for a resolution of his tax issues.

Do you have an outstanding tax debt, have unfiled taxes or have been faced with a garnishment or bank levy? When will you make the first step in your journey to financial freedom for you and your family? Your tax problems aren't going to go away on their own. Take action TODAY to set up your free consultation with your trusted tax professionals at Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution & Accounting Firm by calling 866-224-3309 or by visiting TravisWatkinsTax.com.



***We are beyond relieved at what this firm
accomplished for me and my family.***

-Taylor H., Yukon, OK

**We will recommend your
company to *EVERYONE!***

-Anne S., Fort Cobb

OFFER ACCEPTED FOR \$5.00!

A local insurance agent came to our office, because he had no where to turn after being levied and was unable to renew his professional license. This quickly became an overwhelming amount of stress for him and his family with the accumulating tax liability of \$473,000. After being levied, a revenue officer was assigned to his case and arrived at his front doorstep with a summons to appear. Once we were able to establish a full investigation we were quickly able to resolve his tax debt with an Offer in Compromise for only \$5.00!

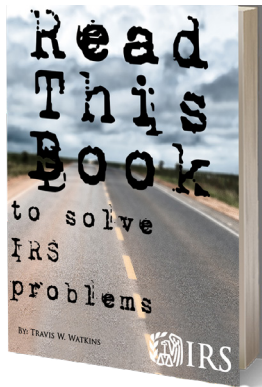
We understand the struggle of feeling underrepresented. Our team of Attorneys, CPAs, and Enrolled Agents at Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution and Accounting Firm is here to get your life back on track with the IRS. We are 100% devoted and have nearly 20 years of experience dealing with the IRS. We have the right knowledge to help clients out of tricky situations. If you're facing an audit, levy, lien or other collection from the IRS, don't ignore the problem hoping it goes away or tackle it on your own. Immediately call a tax attorney who can help you settle your debt and find a solution. Call us today for your FREE consultation at 866-224-3309.



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Exactly What You're Getting

Here's just a fraction of what's inside and what it might mean for you and your family or your business:

✓ THE IRS MAY BE S.O.L.: The last day the IRS can come after you for a debt.

How does that work?

The IRS doesn't want to make it super easy for you to find out exactly the last day that they can come after you to collect a debt.

Chapter 5 outlines how to calculate your own Collection Statute Expiration Date, the "CSED" with just a little digging. (See page 43)

✓ THE IRS WILL FILE YOUR RETURNS FOR FREE:

But, it's not what you think...

The IRS will sometimes file returns for a taxpayer when they haven't filed for themselves for a long time. Beware: these are returns you wouldn't file on your worst enemy!

It is usually about three years or more from the due date because the IRS penalty for failing to file times out. (CHECK OUT PAGE 60)

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE:

- Chapter 1: New Year's Epiphany: IRS relief is really about getting back in "the system" (who knew?)
- Chapter 2: IRS Problems-Do this to start handling it TODAY!
- Chapter 3: Can I look at the IRS' Poker Hand? (IRS Transcripts)
- Chapter 4: Read this chapter to get your Master Tax File
- Chapter 5: Sometimes the IRS is just plain S.O.L. (LOL)
- Chapter 6: Hey, do this if you have an IRS problem and some unfiled tax returns
- Chapter 7: The IRS will file your returns for free (it's not what you think)
- Chapter 8: Your 5 bug options when you know you have a tax problem
- Chapter 9: How do I know which option(s) the IRS will accept?
- Chapter 10: Form 433A-The IRS Collection Information Statement
- Chapter 11: More of what's yours and what's TheIRS
- Chapter 12: IRS Full=Pay Strategies
- Chapter 13: Offers in Compromise Overview
- Chapter 14: Calculate your Offer to settle your IRS debt
- Chapter 15: The IRS Installment Agreement
- Chapter 16: Dischargeable IRS Debts in Bankruptcy
- Chapter 17: IRS Currently Not Collectible Status
- Chapter 18: 7 surprising ways to avoid hiring a tax resolution firm
- Chapter 19: Penalty Abatements Explained
- Chapter 20: Innocent Spouse Relief
- Chapter 21: Everything you need to know about IRS payroll problems
- Chapter 22: IRS Appeals broken down
- Chapter 23: State Tax Relief Explained
- Chapter 24: IRS Debt relief overview

HOLIDAY Sale

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The holiday season has finally arrived!

Here at the Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution and Accounting Firm, we know and understand how hectic (and expensive) this time of year can be with family, friends and loved ones! That's why we are excited to announce the launch of our 2019 Holiday Promotion, where we are taking up to 10% off ALL of our services, and an additional 5% off if you pay in full!

Due to this Holiday Promotion, spots are filling up FAST and you DO NOT want to miss out on these savings! This Holiday Promotion will end on Dec. 31st, 2019, so take action NOW by calling 866-224-3309.

DON'T LET ANYONE TALK YOU OUT OF KNOWING YOUR OPTIONS (EVEN THE IRS).

This Is Truly A Limited Offer, So Claim Your Copy Now

I'm giving you a 234 page book that outlines the exact tax resolution approached I've used to create customized, actionable plans, to file old returns, negotiate with the IRS and stop immediate threats to taxpayers livelihoods, so they can get a good night's sleep again.

All you pay is a measly \$5.44.

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DECEMBER 2019

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ATTORNEY :DARON SOUTHERLAND
ATTORNEY :GRANT REYNOLDS
ATTORNEY :CAITLYN JENNINGS

ACCOUNTING/FINANCIAL/BOOKKEEPING
FINANCIAL ANALYST :ANNETTE CAVAZOS

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

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Are IRS problems freaking you out?



We've helped thousands of Oklahomans escape their IRS nightmare, so we can probably help you out too!

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WHICH IRS LETTERS ARE JUST SCARE TACTICS AND WHICH LETTERS ARE SERIOUS?

If you have a tax problem, I bet you have been bombarded with "love letters" from the IRS...some letters reminding you to pay your unpaid taxes, some reminding you to file, some wanting information, and some wanting you to call them. Yikes. Perhaps some letters are even more sinister: demanding payment by a deadline, threatening to levy your bank account or threatening to seize assets. Undoubtedly, every letter is scary when you owe the IRS and just not knowing what is coming next can be unnerving. What you may or may not know is some IRS threats are serious, and some are merely scare tactics. How is a person to know the difference?

Here's some little-known "secret" information about how to tell which IRS letters really require your urgent attention.

• **Final Notice of Intent to Levy:** The Internal Revenue Code stipulates that the Service must notify a taxpayer of intent to levy prior to a levy. Oftentimes, the IRS will issue "Notice of Intent to Levy...Intent to seize your property or rights to property". This is called a CP504 letter. This is a scare tactic. This letter does not have teeth and the IRS cannot seize property unless a "Final Notice" has been issued. But don't continue to bury your head in the sand just because this letter does not have teeth. Instead, if you receive a CP504 letter, you are heading down the path to a levy, and it is best to start taking action NOW before it gets too out of hand. On rare occasions the IRS will not even send a Notice of Intent, and will instead just issue a Final Notice of Intent to Levy. If you receive a Final Notice of Intent to Levy...seek help immediately! A levy is imminent.

• **Summons:** The IRS will issue a Summons only when a specific local IRS employee is working the case. This will either be an IRS Revenue Officer or an IRS Revenue Agent. This is not something to mess around with or put off until the last minute. It's serious business. Typically a Summons is issued when an IRS employee feels that the taxpayer is not being compliant in requests for information (see Summary of Contract below) or is believed to be withholding or falsifying information. If you have been issued a Summons, seek help immediately!

• **Summary of Contact:** If you receive a Summary of Taxpayer Contact from the IRS, you have received a form 9297. A form 9297 is serious because a Revenue Officer is requesting information by a certain deadline. When they issue a 9297 one of two things is happening: 1) They are trying to assess the Trust Fund Recovery Penalty against a responsible party for failing to file and/or deposit payroll tax (very serious)... or 2.) They are trying to obtain financial records to perform a financial analysis or find sources of income to garnish. Seek help immediately! DO NOT IGNORE A FORM 9297. If you are open for a levy and you miss the deadline, the IRS will not hesitate to seize your income. Call us immediately!



If you have received ANY of the above letters, you do not want to handle this yourself. You may end up disclosing, or not disclosing something that will only hurt you; hiring a qualified tax lawyer upon receipt of these letters can help make sure that whatever happens is in your best interest...not the IRS' best interest. Give our team of tax professionals a call today at 866-224-3309 or visit TravisWatkinsTax.com.



What Is IRS Resolution?

Tax Preparation, Audits, Bookkeeping, CFO Services, Offers In Compromise, more...

We do nothing but IRS resolution and what that means is tax preparation, audits, bookkeeping, or what we refer to sometimes as "CFO services." In other words, it's like being your Financial Analyst if you're a small business owner. We also do Offers in Compromise. Offers in Compromise is the IRS' settlement program, so sometimes you can settle things for pennies on the dollar. We do all those types of things here, and more! If you want us to do these things for you, we deal with the IRS all day, every day and we do so successfully. If you want to talk to a tax professional right now, you can do so at 866-224-3309.

www.TravisWatkinsTax.com