



TIMOTHY S. HART  
LAW GROUP, P.C.  
— A TAX LAW FIRM —

# 7 TIPS TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE WITH THE IRS



T I M O T H Y   H A R T

# About the Author



Timothy S Hart, the founding partner of the tax law firm of Timothy S. Hart Law Group, P.C. is both a New York Tax Lawyer & Certified Public Accountant.

His area of expertise is providing innovative solutions to solve your Internal Revenue Service and New York State tax problems, including tax settlements through the Federal and New York State offer in compromise programs, filing unfiled tax returns, voluntary disclosures, tax audits, and criminal investigations.

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New York City Office

# Tim's Accomplishments

- Secured a settlement for a client with the New York State Tax Department, **reducing the tax debt from \$834,000 to just \$325,000**. This settlement, payable over 60 months, achieved a remarkable **debt reduction of over 60%**.
- Successfully negotiated an Offer in Compromise with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), **reducing a \$1,789,207 income tax liability to just \$351,746**. This represents an impressive **reduction of over 80%** of the original tax debt.
- Assisted **hundreds of clients to regain tax filing compliance** by filing their past due income tax returns. Additionally, Tim devised affordable payment arrangements tailored to each client's circumstances, allowing them to manage their tax debt effectively.

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Successfully filed a U.S. Tax Court Petition that resulted in the **full resolution of an IRS tax debt**, allowing the client to walk away **without making any further payments**.

Read more success stories at:

<https://irstaxpros.com/success-stories/>

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# Introduction

"Taxes" can be a daunting word for many. In this book, we aim to guide you through this complex subject and provide practical solutions.

This book addresses common issues faced by taxpayers, from procrastination and failure to file tax returns, to dealing with the IRS, understanding tax levies, liens, and how to benefit from relief programs.

Here, we simplify the tax language, highlight the importance of having a tax expert by your side, and underscore the need to act promptly when faced with tax issues. With this guide, you can navigate the taxing world of taxes confidently, putting you back in control of your financial future.

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# 1. Procrastination and Ignoring Collection Notices

Ignoring tax problems doesn't make them disappear; in fact, it often makes things worse. Tax laws can be complex, and the fear of dealing with the IRS or NYS can be overwhelming. We all want to do things right, and the fear of making a mistake can make us put things off. **One key mistake is ignoring IRS notices.** These letters are crucial—they are how the IRS informs you of impending actions, like bank levies or wage garnishments.

**Don't be caught off guard.** The IRS and NYS tax collection process includes a home visit. When this happens, know that they are determined to recover the debt. Burying your head in the sand won't help. Instead,

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the issue can be **better managed with knowledge and preparation.**

**Don't wait for the problem to escalate.** Taking control of your tax issues is crucial, and it's never too early or too late to get started. Reach out to a tax attorney now. Their expertise can help you navigate these difficult waters, give you a sense of relief and put you back in control.

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## 2. Not Filing a Tax Return

It's **mandatory to file an income tax return** if your income surpasses a certain threshold. The only method to accurately determine the tax you owe is by preparing these returns. It's common for individuals to **estimate their tax** incorrectly.

If you failed to file a tax return accurately, the IRS and NYS Tax Department take it upon themselves to prepare a substitute return on your behalf. However, this return is calculated using the **highest tax rates and allows for no exemptions**, often resulting in an **inflated tax bill** that needs to be rectified.

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**Don't leave your finances up to chance or inaccurate estimates.** Reach out to a tax attorney today. They can help you understand your true tax obligations, avoiding potential overpayments and the stress that comes with mishandled tax matters.

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### **3. Believe the IRS When They Say, “Tell Us What Happened, and We’ll Help You Take Care Of The Problem.”**

When you're dealing with unpaid taxes, the first substantive question the IRS will ask is “why do you owe these taxes?” You should be very careful in answering this question. It’s best to hire an expert to handle this question for you to protect yourself from potential pitfalls.

There are many options available to resolve a tax issue: payment plans, an offer in compromise settlement, and non-collectible status. However, the IRS often will not

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discuss these options with you since they just want to collect the money from you as soon as possible, even if it creates financial hardship. **You need to become informed** to know your rights.

**Don't feel pressured into dealing with the IRS alone.**

Hire a tax attorney to be your guide. They can ensure your responses to the IRS are appropriate, help you understand your options, and fight to protect your financial wellbeing.

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## 4. Failing to Hire a Tax Resolution Firm (Tax Attorney or CPA)

When you're dealing with something as serious as tax issues, it's best to have an experienced tax expert on your side. These experts have dealt with situations like yours and can **provide customized solutions**. Your situation is unique and it's **risky to rely solely on generic internet advice**—there's simply too much at stake.

Good, reliable advice might cost more, but it's worth it. Your case should be handled by a tax attorney or CPA who's well-versed in the tax rules relating to government debts. **Be wary of national tax resolution firms**, as they may not have the level of expertise needed to manage your case effectively.

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There's options for solving tax debt: from partial payment installment agreements to offering compromises that reduce your tax debt, to setting up payment plans. The key to navigating these options is **understanding the laws and your rights**. A knowledgeable professional can provide you with the necessary guidance.

**Don't gamble with your financial future.**

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## 5. Failing to Contest a Tax Levy

A tax levy is a legal measure taken by the government, to seize property or assets to satisfy unpaid tax debts. This could include garnishing wages, withdrawing money from your bank account, seizing and selling property, or claiming future tax refunds.

A tax levy is the government's last resort in recovering owed taxes. While there are numerous ways to contest a tax levy, it's **challenging for the average person to grasp all the legal implications** or devise an effective strategy to manage or halt the levy.

Once a tax levy has taken place, there are still legal steps that can be taken to lessen its impact. However, your tax

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case becomes more complex at this stage because the IRS now has a stronger hand than before your assets were seized.

**Don't let it get to this point.** The tax laws are complex and managing them on your own can be daunting. A tax attorney can guide you through these complexities, helping you make sense of your options and devising a strategy to protect your assets.

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## 6. Not Pursuing a “Fresh Start” with Your Taxes

The IRS and NYS Tax Department provide relief programs for individuals and businesses burdened with significant tax debt. **These programs can reduce—or even eliminate—the amount owed**, often leading to transformative results for taxpayers and offering a much-needed reprieve.

Think of it as achieving the benefits of a bankruptcy filing—specifically for your taxes—but without the actual need to file for bankruptcy. You avoid the stigma, public scrutiny, and potential damage to your credit. Your **tax debt gets reduced, or eliminated**, giving you a clean slate to start over.

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However, these programs can be complex and navigating them can be challenging. Don't let this option pass you by because of confusion or lack of knowledge. Reach out to a tax attorney today to guide you through the process, and help you take that crucial first step.

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## 7. Failing to Remove a Federal Tax Lien from Your Record

When a taxpayer owes substantial amounts to the IRS, the agency secures its financial interest by filing a Notice of Federal Tax Lien.

Similar to a mortgage, **this lien is a claim on most of the taxpayer's assets, whether personal or real property.**

If these assets are sold, the IRS collects the proceeds. The NYS Tax Department employs a similar tool known as a tax warrant. When the IRS moves to enforce a lien, it becomes a levy.

A tax lien has implications beyond reducing the value of your property. It also **significantly hampers your**

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**creditworthiness.** Banks are typically reluctant to lend money to individuals with tax issues. Therefore, managing a tax lien is essential to **prevent it from causing further financial disruptions.**

Understanding and dealing with tax liens can be complex. But you don't have to face this challenge alone. Engaging a tax attorney can provide you with the expert guidance you need to handle your tax lien, protecting your financial stability in the process.

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# **Our Law Firm's Approach and What You Can Expect Working with Our Firm**

*(Our 4-Step Plan to Solve Your Tax Problems)*

**Read on...**

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## Step 1: Discussion and Analysis of Your Tax Problem

In your **first free consultation**, you'll **speak directly** to the Tax Attorney handling your case. We'll gather your financial history and discuss potential solutions. After signing the agreement, we'll file a Power of Attorney form to **represent you before the IRS**. This grants us authority to handle your IRS communications and immediately **freeze any aggressive IRS actions** to protect your assets.

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## Step 2: Collect and Review Your Tax Information from IRS

We gather all tax-related information from the IRS to prevent surprises or misunderstandings, and to **formulate the best strategy for your case**. This data will be compared with the financial account information you provided us.

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## **Step 3: Collect and Analyze Your Financial Information**

We need your financial documents to assess your situation, reduce your tax liabilities, and prepare unfiled tax returns. We'll review all the documentation, identify the cause of the tax problem, and ensure it doesn't recur.

**Our joint efforts will build a strong case against the taxing authorities.**

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## Step 4: Develop a Strategy to Solve Your Tax Problem

After reviewing your financial situation, we will help you **decide on the best solution**, such as an Offer in Compromise or a Tax Installment Agreement. Our expertise will help you **pay off your debt in a reasonable manner**. Remember, **delaying action worsens your situation**, so even if you can't pay the taxes owed, the IRS often allows manageable tax payment plans.

**Get in touch today—every second counts when it comes to solving your tax problem.** Call our office at: (518) 213-3445 or (917) 382-5142, and ask for **Timothy S. Hart**; or drop us an email at [thart@harttaxlawgroup.com](mailto:thart@harttaxlawgroup.com).

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