



Tax & Financial Guide

Business and Personal ACCOUNTING, TAX,
SOFTWARE & FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES

Tax Extension Deadlines Mean Returns Due Now

If we, or you, filed an extension for your tax returns, corporation and partnership returns are due September 15 and October 16. I will finish them before September 15 so need them by the 10th.

Personal returns are due October 16. Because I will be out of the office October 10 through 15, I will finish them by October 9. So you

must get them to me by September 30.

To make things even trickier, Kami is getting a knee replacement September 7. I will be helping her and others will also help so I can be in the office. Either way you can still reach me by email or phone.

I need you to get your records to me as soon as possible so we can finish everything on a timely basis, and keep the government happy and off our back.

Cover Added Income With Tax Estimates

If you are working Uber, Lyft, Airbnb or similar income sources, please make sure you contact us before tax season. There are lots of rules pertaining to these programs that you need to abide by in order to take advantage of everything you are entitled to.

Many people collect money during the year but don't pay tax estimates on this extra income. If you owe too much money at the end of the year, you can be charged penalties and/or interest. It is better to plan ahead than give the government more of your hard earned money than you need to.

Tax Refund Delays?

US 2017 tax refunds will again be held until February 15 to help the government intercept more of the fraudulent tax returns. Criminals prepare tax returns with bogus refunds and file them in January.

Last year the IRS required employers to file Federal copies of all W-2s by January 31 to allow the IRS to record the information. This helped catch some of the criminals and save millions of dollars in potential tax refunds. The IRS continues to make it tougher for criminals to reap big 'paydays'.

For those of you looking for an early refund, you

must wait until mid-February. But short waits are better than the government paying criminals millions of dollars!

Gambling Winnings

Gambling winnings are all taxable on your federal tax return. Gambling losses can be deducted only to the extent of the winnings if you itemize and have proper documentation. Costs of meals, lodging, and other expenses are not deductible.

For the state of Wisconsin, there is rarely anyone who can deduct losses unless you have "sessions" records. This is an intricate way of documenting your losses.

IRS Online Tool

The IRS now has an online tool you can use to see how much you owe them. You must go through security procedures to authenticate your identity. It would be nice to verify your records instead of relying on mail that takes forever to get to you, and many times just says, "We will get back to you in 45 days."

Third Quarter Tax Estimates are due September 15, 2017.

If you want us to prepare them for you, we need your income, deductions and withholding amounts in our office by September 10, 2017.

Please call our office to discuss any of the items in this newsletter that may pertain to you.



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If you misplace your newsletters, or your information sheets that I have given you (i.e. contributions, enrolled agents, etc.), you will be able to find them on the web site.

Please note that our e-mail address is: sharon@murphyea.com.

PRIVACY POLICY

We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our clients or former clients to anyone, except as instructed to do so by such clients, or required by law. We restrict access to non-public personal information only to IRS or state authorities and we maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to guard your personal non-public information.

Safety of Critical Documents

It is that time of year again: Verifying safety of your important documents. With hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters running rampant, it is good to make sure you have copies of all important documents safe and secure.

Take pictures and store them off site (safe deposit box, location other than home, etc.). Scan them into your computer and store them somewhere safe. Make a video of what you

Is Alimony Taxable/Deductible?

Alimony is an area that is keeping the IRS busy. For alimony to be taxable to the recipient and deductible to the payer, the payments must be part of the court issued order. If both parties agree to any additional payments, this is not considered alimony since it is not part of the court issued order.

have in your house and store it somewhere other than at home. If thieves come and steal things, you will have documentation of what they took. If water gets into your home, you will have verification of your loss for the insurance company.

A small amount of time planning ahead eliminates a really large headache if something does happen.

Tax Fraud Tips

There is still a lot of identity theft and tax fraud going on. But remember: the IRS doesn't call, they don't send emails, they don't come to arrest you, they don't demand payments on prepaid cards, they don't call and tell you not to tell anyone they are on the phone. These are all scams.

The criminals continue to do these things because people keep giving them money. As long as they get money, they will continue these tactics.

DON'T give them any personal information!! Hang up on them!

Parking Available

For clients or prospects visiting our office, we now have ample parking behind our building.

It's convenient to drive straight in and out. And you get a good look at the impressive solar panels on the roof.

FHA Mortgages

If you have an FHA mortgage signed after September 1, 1983, but before December 8, 2004, and paid an upfront mortgage insurance premium, you may be eligible for a refund. If your FHA mortgage is dated after December 8, 2004 you could qualify for a refund if you refinanced to another FHA mortgage.

If you receive a solicitation from a third party that will help you get this refund for a fee, don't do it. You don't need to pay a fee to "track down" or "trace" your FHA refund. Call the HUD hotline at 1-800-697-6967 for information.



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