

Tax Resolution Times

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“Denmark is charging a fast-food tax on meat, cheese and oil. Here we call that the Denny’s Grand Slam Breakfast.”

Jay Leno

IRS Tries To Tackle Super Bowl Champ Who Owes \$15 Million in Back Taxes

Bill Romanowski, a former NFL linebacker who played for the 49ers, the Eagles, the Broncos and the Raiders, has filed for bankruptcy after the federal government sued him and his wife Julie for millions of dollars in unpaid taxes.

The Romanowskis’ filed the bankruptcy petition 24 hours before they were scheduled at a hearing with the Department of Justice regarding the 15.5 million dollars they owe in back taxes.

The DOJ has been conducting their investigation since before Romanowski retired in 2003, with the DOJ claiming that the Romanowskis used their company, Nutrition53, to evade paying taxes. Nutrition53 sells health supplements and filed for bankruptcy last year.

The couple is accused of using funds from the company to pay for personal expenses for themselves and their children, including rent for their California home and their daughter’s home, groceries, veterinarian expenses, pet food and over 170 visits to nail salons, hair salons and day spas.

The four-time Super Bowl winner was repeatedly fined for dirty play, and after his retirement in 2003, he admitted to using steroids throughout his career. In 2003 Romanowski ended the career of teammate Marcus Williams when he broke his eye socket during practice. Williams sued Romanowski and he settled for \$415,000.

Business Owner Uses Checks To His Company as Personal ATM

Su Nguyen, the owner of a Massachusetts based temporary employment agency, pleaded guilty to filing false tax returns and hiding 10 million dollars in income.

Between 2016 and 2020, Nguyen deposited only a fraction of the checks issued to his company. Instead, he cashed over ten million dollars in client checks at a check cashing company. He used the cash for personal use and to pay some of his employees’ wages. He failed to pay over two million dollars in taxes.

If convicted, Nguyen faces up to 15 years in prison, restitution to the IRS and fines up to \$250,000.

Conman Gets Nine Year Prison Sentence

Joseph Cipolla Jr. was sentenced to nine years in prison for evading almost half a million dollars in taxes and for a host of other illegal schemes.

Cipolla filed no tax returns between 2015 and 2020, causing a loss to the IRS of \$415,043, and a loss to the state of Illinois of \$75,045. He concealed his income by using a relative's social security number on casino tax forms, used family members as nominee owners of his cars, and used a nominee to rent airplane hangars.

In 2020 Cipolla received four loans under the Paycheck Protection and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Programs for more than 1.18 million dollars. The loans were based on false tax documents.

In addition to the prison sentence Cipolla was ordered to pay \$2,096,285 in restitution to the IRS, the state of Illinois, the US Small Business Administration and to other entities and individuals victimized by his crimes.

Man Caught Red-Handed Stealing Millions and Hiding Funds in Green Dot Bank Cards

Dolapo Dawal pleaded guilty to obtaining fraudulent tax refunds using the stolen identities of elderly victims.

After Lawal received the refunds, he would load them onto debit cards tied to bank accounts opened in the victims' names, and then withdraw the refunds in cash.

Two separate instances resulted in Lawal's guilty plea. In April of 2022 he was stopped by Baltimore police and when his car was searched, they found 24 Green Dot Bank debit cards in the names of identity theft victims. They also found \$18,900 in cash. Further investigation found that Lawal had used those debit cards in the previous month more than 300 times and had withdrawn more than \$80,000.

In June of 2023 Lawal's home was searched and police recovered more than 300 Green Dot Bank debit cards. Lawal's cell phone contained pictures of the cards, along with routing and bank numbers associated with several of them. At least 200 of the cards were under names of additional identity theft victims from the ones discovered the previous year. These debit cards represented more than three million dollars in illegally obtained tax refunds.

Lawal faces up to 10 years in prison for access device fraud and two years for identity theft.

Thank you!

Thanks to YOU, the word is spreading. Thanks to my clients and friends who graciously referred me to their friends, clients and relatives last month! I enjoy building my business based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you.

I just couldn't do it without you!



CEO of Fast Food Giant Tries to Pull a Fast One on IRS

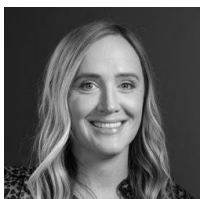
The former CEO and controlling shareholder of Fat Brands, Inc, owners of Fatburger, Hot Dog on a Stick, Johnny Rockets, Round Table Pizza and several other food establishments, was indicted for concealing 47 million dollars he received in the form of shareholder loans.

Andrew Wiederhorn was assisted in the fraud by the company's CFO and his outside accountant. They enabled him to conceal millions of dollars in reportable compensation and taxable income and evade millions of dollars in taxes.

According to court records, Wiederhorn began hiding his compensation in the form of shareholder loans almost 30 years ago when he was the CEO of Wilshire Credit Corporation. In his capacity as CEO he gave himself, and later forgave, 65 million dollars in loans. From 2006 through 2021, the IRS attempted to collect personal income tax and trust fund taxes he owed, and by March 2021 his unpaid personal income tax liability was \$7,743,952.

From 2010 to 2021 Wiederhorn had FAT Brands compensate him 47 million dollars in the form of shareholder loans with no collateral and no interest payments. The money was used to fund private jet travel, vacations, a Rolls Royce Phantom, other luxury cars, jewelry and a piano. Wiederhorn also had the company pay his personal American Express credit card bills, totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Wiederhorn faces a lengthy prison sentence and millions in restitution.



Jennifer O'Neill, EA, MBA

President & Enrolled Agent

Jennifer is an Enrolled Agent licensed to represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service. Jennifer obtained her MBA from Canisius College and her BA in Business from Boston University and is the President of IRS Help.

Jennifer serves as a subject matter expert advising taxpayers in controversies before federal and state tax authorities and has worked with several companies developing business plans and designing financial strategies.

Scrappy Tax Cheat Tries to Railroad IRS Gets Prison Time

An Ohio man working for his family business was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison for stealing company funds and filing false tax returns.

Donald Martin worked for his father's railroad scrap company that contracted with railroad companies to remove worn out railroad track in order to sell it to scrap metal companies. The railroad companies had to be paid in advance, so the company took out loans to buy the track, repaying them as soon as they made their money from the scrap metal company.

Beginning in 2013, Martin deposited the short-term loans into bank accounts he owned. He paid back the loans with company funds, occasionally with his own funds, or did not repay them at all. After Martin's father got sick in 2014, Martin took over the company and continued the fraud through 2016.

To evade taxes on the funds he embezzled, Martin filed false tax returns for 2013 to 2016, failing to report \$4,919,541. This caused a tax loss to the IRS of \$1,287,769. In addition to the prison sentence, he was ordered to pay \$1,882,789 in restitution.

Did You Know?

Pennsylvania charges an additional 18% “flood tax” for every bottle of alcohol sold. The law was originally designed to help rebuild Johnstown after the flood of 1936 but remains in effect. The money now goes to the state general fund.

Thank you for the Kind Words...

“They say God sends angels to watch over you and I must say he did that in you and IRS Help, Inc.”

I'd Like to Hear From You!

If you have an IRS issue, or just want to refer a friend, relative or client, we'd love to hear from you. We can provide a no-obligation confidential consultation to help you solve your IRS problems.

Email us at:
jmoneill@irshelp.com

Enter Our Trivia Contest for a Chance to Win a \$250 Transferrable Gift Certificate!

Take the Trivia Challenge to win!

Each month, I'll give you a new trivia question. The first **THREE** people who call my office with the correct answer win a free \$250 reduction on any IRS service I provide. Your prize is also transferrable, so use it for yourself, or give it to a family member or friend. Take your best guess and call me at **800-477-4357 (800-IRS-HELP)**

This month's question is....

Sri Lankan Suresh Joachim holds the world record for the longest time standing on one foot. How long did he stand for?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) 75 hours, 40 minutes | c) 37 hours, 15 minutes |
| b) 19 hours, 17 minutes | d) 87 hours, 45 minutes |

Call today at 800-477-4357

or email us at jmoneill@irshelp.com

Your IRS Questions Answered Here...

Question: I've been getting aggressive collection notices from the IRS recently. I think can pay the tax due but would like these ridiculous penalties and interest charges waived. Does the IRS waive penalties? What can I do to get these removed from my account?

Answer: There are several different ways the IRS removes or reduces penalties. One option is called First Time Penalty Abatement ("FTA"). This is generally requested verbally over the phone, but you must have a "clean record" for the previous 3 years prior to the year your requesting relief on. This does not require you to have a "reason" or an "excuse"!

The other option is a bit more involved and is called "Reasonable Cause". The IRS has some nine different reasonable cause defenses you can apply under. One of them for example, is death, serious illness, or unavoidable absence. It only covers immediate family members, and the issue must be addressed in a reasonable amount of time after the illness or death. You'll need to show other obligations weren't paid-not just the taxes. You'll also need written proof of the illness or death. This must be requested via a formal letter to the IRS written in a very specific format. Call us to see if any of the other 8 arguments apply to you.

We at **IRS Help Inc.** are experts in IRS tax problem resolution and penalty abatement. We help taxpayers with their IRS Problems every day. **There is a solution to EVERY problem.** You'll never have to speak or meet with the IRS, once we're in the picture! Call us today! **800-477-4357** for a FREE confidential consultation.