



ELK POINT

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

Congratulations. You have survived 2014. Now that we are in the New Year here is what you need to know for the 2014 Income Tax Filing Year. .

What the IRS Wants You To Know

Did you purchase health care on the Exchange? Did the Government provide you a subsidy based upon your income? Did you adjust your income throughout the year? If not, you may end up owing money this year. Be prepared for this. Also, you will need to provide form 1095 from your insurance provider.

If you have college age children that are thinking of filing their own tax returns I would strongly discourage them from doing so. Because of the new tax laws, especially around the Affordable Care Act, there is a high probability that their inexperience will negatively impact both yours and their returns. Have a tax professional prepare both yours, and your children's (if applicable) returns.

The IRS has recently stated that they are ready to start accepting filings in late January. However, be prepared for longer than usual turn-around on refunds. This is not an uncommon position from the IRS as they tend to make this announcement regarding refunds every year. Still, they will likely have a longer than usual turn-around due to the reporting requirements surrounding the Affordable Care Act.

Year End Reporting

Just a friendly reminder that this is the time of year where you will need to send out W2's for your employees and 1099 forms for your contractors. If you have questions regarding employees versus contractors please let us know. If we are preparing W2's or 1099's for you please ensure that we have the correct identification number (Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number—if applicable) and the correct mailing address prior to filing these forms.

Tax Season Office Hours

The Tate & Associates offices will continue to operate Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm through April 15th starting on January 26th. If you need a weekend, or before or after hour appointment please contact our offices and we will do what we can to potentially accommodate you.

Tax Season Appointments

As in previous years tax appointments will be conducted on Mondays during normal business hours. If you require a different day, time or weekend appointment please let us know. We will do what we can to potentially accommodate you. If you would like to drop off your information we can take that anytime.

We conduct our appointments on Mondays so that we can utilize the rest of the week, & weekends to complete your tax returns. We will also return calls and emails by the end of each day.

Real Estate Fraud is on the Rise

Now that the economy is starting to improve the instances of Real Estate Fraud have started their rise again. Fortunately, the schemes used are very familiar and are being caught and prosecuted quickly and successfully. Here are some things for our Real Estate Friends to keep on the lookout for.

Real Estate Fraud is relatively easy to commit and detect. Fraudsters will often use real estate to launder money due to the liquidity of the market. They do this by using a straw buyer to purchase the property who then transfers the property to the fraudster.

If the fraudster is from a Country that has a reputation for Fraud, then that is an area where a red flag should appear. They may also be in a rush to complete the transaction. They will often show little interest in the characteristics of the property and purchase site unseen. The fraudster will often make an offer much higher than what the property is worth. It is important to conduct a lifestyle analysis on the buyer as the straw buyer will likely be purchasing a property outside of their income level. Finally, they will want to sell the property relatively quickly after the sale to keep the funds moving so that they are harder to trace.

If you suspect a real estate fraud, contact FAI International. We are experienced tracing these types of frauds.