



IRS Letters

During the busy tax season, I don't get time to talk about income tax mistakes and IRS letters and so people don't realize the extent to which I can help them. In fact, I had a customer come in today asking for a copy of his 2011 tax return so he could get it amended somewhere else. He had no idea I could amend his return or address the letter he received from the IRS.

Whether I prepared your return or not, if you get a letter from the IRS, please let me review the letter to see if I can help. I do not charge for a consult on an IRS letter. I only charge if I can do something to save you more than my fee. In some cases, I will simply tell you what to do rather than pay me to do it for you.

Also, please don't be scared or jump to conclusions. I can recall two occasions when a client received a letter from the IRS after I prepared their tax return and they called me in a state of frustration and fear... blaming me, yelling at me, or asking me for a refund on my tax preparation fees. Getting a letter from the IRS is scary for people. I get that. And it doesn't help that IRS letters are typically multiple pages long and confusing. In one case, the letter was simply informational. There was nothing wrong. The person did not owe money or have a mistake on their tax return. In the second case, the IRS was simply informing the client they did not report their stock sales and it turned out my client did not owe the amount listed in the letter.... the IRS owed them!!

The author, Kaye Alvarez, is an enrolled agent, federally authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS for income taxes, audits, collections, and appeals.