

Phil Liberatore, IRS Expert and CPA, Explains Why Fear of the IRS Keeps Taxpayers Stuck: Fear Is Not a Strategy

When taxpayers panic, they often avoid the very problem they need to address, says the experienced CPA and IRS representation specialist

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- An IRS letter arrives. It sits unopened. Days become weeks, and the anxiety grows. For many taxpayers, the hardest part of dealing with the IRS isn't necessarily understanding the tax issue itself—it's overcoming the fear that comes with it.

"Opening mail from the IRS can be stressful for some. Fear and anxiety are a natural reaction to a letter that could be potentially threatening. Before you panic, reach out to a trusted tax professional. I am here to ease the stress that comes with dealing with the IRS," [Phil Liberatore](#), IRS and tax expert, explains.



Philip Liberatore

According to Liberatore, that fear can lead taxpayers to delay taking action, ignoring notices, or assume their situation is worse than it actually is. But avoidance rarely makes a tax problem disappear. In fact, delaying response to the IRS can prove costly. Liberatore suggests taxpayers take action immediately; avoidance is not a strategy.

"Fear can cause people to freeze," says Liberatore. "The sooner you understand what you're dealing with, the sooner you can begin looking at your options. Communication with the IRS, is not easy for some. But waiting or avoiding the IRS can be detrimental to your financial stability in the long run."

With decades of accounting and tax experience, Liberatore helps individuals and businesses navigate complex tax matters, including IRS representation. His approach focuses on helping clients understand their circumstances, formulate a strategy, and move forward with greater clarity and confidence.

Liberatore says people avoid the IRS for many reasons. Taxpayers may fear owing more money

than they can afford, making a costly mistake, facing penalties, or simply not knowing what to say to the IRS. That uncertainty can make ignoring a notice feel easier than opening it.

But failing to respond can create additional complications.

Liberatore encourages taxpayers to resist the urge to bury their heads in the sand. Instead, they should start by determining exactly what the IRS is asking for and what deadlines may apply. Receiving an IRS notice does not automatically mean a taxpayer has no options. Depending on the circumstances, taxpayers may have different ways to address a tax liability or resolve a dispute.

Here are Liberatore's Tips for receiving notification from the IRS:

1. Don't Ignore It — Read the notice and meet all deadlines.
2. Verify the Contact — Watch for IRS impersonation scams.
3. Gather Your Records — Have tax returns and payment records ready.
4. Get Professional Help — A tax expert can help you understand your options.

"People don't have to figure everything out at once," concludes Liberatore. "The important thing is to take that first step. For taxpayers who have been avoiding an IRS issue, that first step can be as simple as asking for help. Tax problems can feel overwhelming when viewed as one enormous crisis. Breaking the situation into manageable steps can make it easier to understand what needs to happen next. Don't let fear decide for you."

About Phil Liberatore

Phil Liberatore is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a tax advocate specializing in tax strategy, planning, and resolution. He helps individuals and businesses navigate complex tax matters, resolve IRS issues, and develop strategies designed to support stronger long-term financial outcomes.

Phil Liberatore is available for interviews.

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