

# MONEY SENSE

**Genesis**  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INC.

Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2007

## NEW BEGINNINGS, DEBT FREE

### Tax Scams—The Last Thing You Need!

Life is complex enough without con artists trying to separate you from your hard earned dollars. It can be very costly if you become a victim of a scam that trades on the image or the mission of the IRS. Everyone should be vigilant in protecting personal, financial and tax information.

The IRS has these tips to avoid falling prey to con artists.

Watch your personal and financial information very closely, particularly during electronic transactions. The IRS is among a growing group of government agencies and corporations whose names and Web sites are being copied by imposters posing employees conducting official business and seeking your personal information. Be aware that the IRS does not use e-mail to initiate contact with taxpayers about their accounts. Do not open links in unsolicited messages claiming to come from the IRS.

Not all scams come by way of the Internet or email. The telephone is a low-tech source of scams. Do not give away personal information to callers claiming to be from the IRS unless you have verified their caller's identity. You can confirm an IRS contact by calling 800-829-1040.

Thieves can use stolen personal data to access your financial accounts, run up charges on credit cards or apply for new loans. With a stolen identity a con-artist might try to use your Social Security Number to intercept your refund or falsify employment records leaving the IRS with the impression that you do not report all of your income.

Some con artists earn their living by preparing false, and illegal, tax returns. Make certain that all of the information on your tax return is accurate since you are responsible for its content regardless of who prepares your return.

Dishonest return preparers, promising unreasonably large refunds, can cause many headaches for you. Such preparers attract new clients by promising large refunds while skimming a portion of the inflated refunds and charging high fees for preparation services. Choose carefully when you hire a tax preparer. As the saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

In contrast to shady tax preparers, some con artists openly tell you that you do not have to pay taxes. Be wary of anyone who encourages you to side-step your

responsibility to file an income tax return or to pay the proper amount of tax due.

Some promoters make outlandish claims that taxes are not legal, that wages are not income, that a voluntary tax system means you can choose not to file or pay and that income tax returns violate your protection against self-incrimination or the right to privacy. Often these promoters will use techniques that are strikingly similar to any other con-artist to charge a high fee to share their "secrets" with you. Such arguments are false and have been repeatedly thrown out of court. You may end up paying for this mistake twice, first when you pay for the bad advice and second when you are faced with a higher tax bill plus penalties and interest.

Don't be scammed when it comes to your taxes. For more information about these and other tax scams visit the IRS Web site at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

— Marcia Bailey, IRS

#### Payment Address

**Genesis Financial Management**  
P.O Box 758602  
Baltimore, MD 21275-8602

#### Genesis Update:

**We have a new mailing address. From now on, all correspondences need to be sent to our new cooperate address:**

**Genesis Financial Management**  
12640 Telecom Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33637



### Give Back This Season!

The holiday season can be a tough time for struggling families. Take this opportunity to give back to your community by donating non-perishable food items and/or unwrapped presents to a local food pantry or shelter. This will give less fortunate families the opportunity to enjoy their holiday season as well.

If you are not able to donate food or gifts, give the best gift of all...time. Take a few hours out of your week and volunteer. The feeling of helping another is more gratifying than anything you could ever imagine.

If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is, but not in this case. Get all the answers to your financial questions with only one catch...you have to ASK!

### Genesis Financial Management

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## Holiday Planning: Plug the Spending Leaks

During the holiday season, many gifts will be exchanged, many holiday meals will be prepared, and many miles will be traveled by those seeking to unite with their loved ones. As a result, many families will feel the pinch of holiday purchasing, which is where most families lack planning.

Preparing for the holidays should be a year-round task. When we fail to plan in advance, we may limit our buying options and in turn, create other potential financial problems. (No one wants that credit card hangover in January!). So how do we avoid this yearly trap?

1. **Figure out where you stand financially:** Determine where your money is going and stop spending unnecessary money. Create a year round budget that accounts for holiday purchases.
2. **Consolidate your credit bills:** If you're on a debt management program, you've already completed this step!
3. **Power pay your way out:** Start small and concentrate on paying off one bill at a time. Once that debt is paid off, roll that money over to the next account and work on paying that one off.
4. **Have a "nothing" week or month:** Set aside a week or month where you, as a family, decide not to make any unnecessary purchases. Take the money you would have spent and put it towards your holiday fund.

These practices can be applied throughout the year, but they can be a real life-saver during the holidays! Wouldn't it be great to be able to enjoy all the fun and excitement of the season without having to worry about how you'll pay the bills come January 1? It's not too late to turn over a new financial leaf.

## Free Answers to All Your Financial Questions!

We want to make sure that we are able to answer all your question and concerns when it comes to your money. If you have any questions related to budgeting, savings, credit, investing, pretty much anything to deal with your personal finances, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Every month we put out our monthly newsletter, *Money \$en\$e*, with the latest topics and issues related to the financial world but rarely do we receive questions from our clients. Here is your opportunity to get the answers to the questions you have.

How? Simply send your questions and/or correspondence to our corporate office- attention **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**- along with your name, and one of our Accredited Financial Counselors will answer your question in a future issue of *Money \$en\$e*. Free financial information is hard to come by so take advantage of this great opportunity!

## Notes On Program Completion And Our New Address!

With today's interest rates and the tactics creditors are using to increase their revenue it is getting harder and harder to become debt free. Thanks to Genesis, 524 new clients are on their way to financial success and last month 146 clients completed their debt journey.

Please keep in mind that once you complete the debt management program, we still look forward to serving their needs regarding any

debt questions or concerns.

If you are on the verge of completing the program and you wish to continue receiving our monthly newsletter, please contact our Education Department at (813) 864-3990 so that we can add you to our mailing list. We do provide free financial education and budgeting analysis's. We hope to serve you in any other way we can to keep you on your financial

track and meeting your goals.

We have recently changed our corporate address. Our new address is as follows: 12640 Telecom Drive Tampa, Florida 33637. From now on, please forward any correspondences to this address, Our payment address has not changed and is still PO Box 758602 Baltimore, Maryland 21275.

Visit our Website: [www.YourGFM.com](http://www.YourGFM.com)