

Tax Escrow and Attorney Referral Procedure



Introduction

This is our signature tax service for immigration lawyers. It makes you affordable for your clients. If the client does not owe fees, then it is just good practice to advise your clients that they may be entitled to substantial refunds.

As an immigration lawyer I understand that we practice immigration law because we love the people. But you also have to pay the bills and your staff. So this product could revolutionize your practice.

Just imagine being able to say to your client:

“I can take your U visa case because I can get paid out of your tax refunds. Now let me help you get safe.”

How can I get paid from a client's refund?

This is essentially a tax escrow product. We call it *TaxScrow*. We work with an independent escrow agent who will distribute refund checks according to an escrow agreement. We will work with you and your client to complete the escrow agreement so that your fees can be deducted from any refund checks. We act as the tax preparer and representative for the client before the IRS. The checks will be issued in the client's name and mailed to us as the Power of Attorney. We will then forward the checks to the escrow agent who will distribute the proceeds.

What clients qualify?

Clients who receive a refund from the current or prior years.

I. Clients who recently received their Social Security Numbers (SSN)

1. If the client(s) make less than \$44,000 may be entitled to retroactively claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for up to 3 prior years. The refunds per year could be substantial - up to \$7,000 for people who previously filed and possibly more for those who have never filed.

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2. Clients who make more than \$44,000 may still be able to claim the Making Work Pay and Stimulus refunds prior 2008 and 2007 after they obtain their SSNs.

II. If your clients have never filed returns.

1. These clients do not have to have SSNs. They qualify for other benefits even if they are undocumented and must file with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers.

III. If your clients have not filed their current year tax return even when they have been filing returns.

You should consider this for **all** clients as soon as your clients receive SSNs. Normally the client, the spouse and children need their SSNs. So please take the steps to obtain EADs and SSNs for the children. We do not intervene in the immigration aspect of the case.

What are our fees?

We charge by the form. We charge a minimum of \$250 per year for an amended return, Form 1040X, plus additional per form fees to claim previously unasserted credits. Our minimum fee is \$500, not including the escrow agent's fees. The escrow agent charges an independent fee. We do not share fees with referring lawyers or the escrow agent. We do not charge you or your client to prepare the lien documentation. Our fees are competitive and sometimes less than tax services, who are generally not lawyers, CPAs or Enrolled Agents.

How do I refer a client?

- Send us the **Attorney Referral Form** and give your client the **Tax Client Intake Form**. We can quickly evaluate a situation if provided with prior year tax returns and Tax Client Intake Sheet. You can provide this information by fax.

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- If the case has merit, then we will communicate to you that there are funds available to pay your fees and will advise the client of additional documentation needed to begin the case.

Finally, our client engagement agreement specifically states that immigration counsel and our firm are totally separate and independent. We want to be sure to avoid any imputed representation of your firm in the tax case or the firm in the immigration case.

Please contact us if you would like to schedule a general conference or review of a particular case.