



# You may have a tax issue and not know it...

## File Your Return to Claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The EITC is a credit for working individuals and families. The credit can be worth over \$6,000, and it is claimed on your income tax return.

## Non-Filers

The IRS may file a return if you fail to do so, and the taxes are often higher than if you filed yourself.

## Collections

The IRS has 10 years to collect a tax debt (with some exceptions). After 10 years, the debt will go away automatically.

## Identity Thieves Can Take Your Refund

If someone has your personal information such as your Social Security number, they could use this to file a return and claim a refund. If you think this has happened, you should call the Clinic.

## After a Divorce, Who Gets to Claim the Children?

A parent may incorrectly claim a child as a dependent after a divorce or separation. When this happens, you should contact the Clinic for help.

## Tax Issues in Domestic Violence

If you leave your abuser and have tax debts due to filing a joint return, you may be able to eliminate the debt by requesting Innocent Spouse Relief.

## When a Lender Cancels Some or All of a Debt you Owe

If a lender forgives all or some of your debt, it will be considered taxable income, unless an exception applies.

## Tax Implications of Settlements In or Out of Court

Settlement money you receive is likely taxable income and must be reported on your tax return. You should consider this before settling.



Touro Law Center Low Income Taxpayer Clinic



To find out more or to make an appointment, please call **(631) 761-7080.**

# Do you have a tax issue?

You may be eligible for **FREE** legal assistance from Touro Law Center's **Low Income Taxpayer Clinic**



**TOURO COLLEGE**  
JACOB D. FUCHSBERG LAW CENTER  
*Where Knowledge and Values Meet*

## What do we do?

Touro Law Center operates a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic offering **FREE** legal help when you have a dispute with the IRS. **We help with:**

### DISPUTING TAX DEBTS

Reduce or eliminate your taxes, and get back money you paid to the IRS

### COLLECTIONS

Stop the IRS from taking your social security benefits or money from your bank account

### LITIGATION

Represent you in the U.S. Tax Court

### INNOCENT SPOUSE RELIEF

Dispute a tax debt owed by your spouse or ex-spouse

### EXAMS/AUDITS

Dispute IRS claims about your income, deductions, or credits

### IDENTIFYING THEFT

Help when someone steals your identity to claim a refund or get a job

If you have other tax problems with the IRS or get a notice that you do not understand, contact us today.

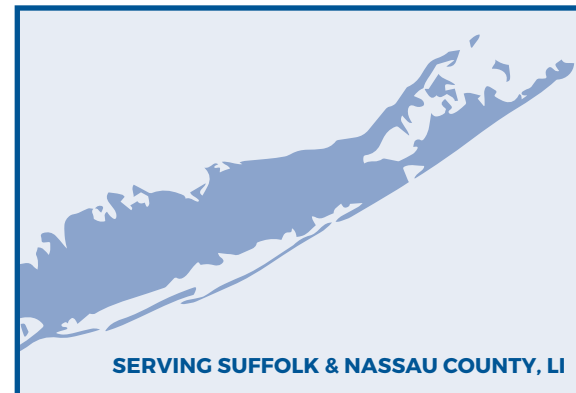
## Whom do we serve?

We serve persons and families who live in Suffolk or Nassau county, have a dispute with the IRS, and qualify.

In most cases, persons can have income up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. Also, the amount in dispute with the IRS for each tax year may not be more than \$50,000. In some cases, we can make exceptions.



In most cases, you will not have to travel and we can help by phone, email, or mail.



Call (631) 761-7080 to see if you are eligible.

## What can you do?

- File on time.
- Use a trusted return preparer if you cannot file yourself.
- Pay as much as you can by the filing deadline.
- If you still owe, contact the IRS to work things out. The IRS will work with you based on your current finances.
- Doing nothing makes matters worse!

### Keep Good Records

You should keep these documents in case you get audited:

- Tax returns (at least the past 3 years)
- Bank statements, bills, and loan documents
- Business records (income and expenses)
- School records, medical records, applications for public benefits
- Anything else that supports any item on your tax return

### Deadlines Are Important

If you get a letter from the IRS, respond quickly. Ignoring letters may result in increased taxes, penalties, and interest.

## Other resources

### Free Tax Return Services

Although the Taxpayer Clinic at Touro Law Center does not prepare income tax returns, we do have a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. To contact Touro Law's VITA program, please call (631) 761-7033. You can also file yourself for free at [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com).

### Personal Tax Help from the Taxpayer Advocate Service

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is part of the IRS, but is there to be your advocate. They can provide free help on matters you cannot resolve yourself. For more information, visit [www.irs.gov/advocate](http://www.irs.gov/advocate).

### Personal Tax Help from an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center

IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs) are your source for personal tax help when you believe your tax issue cannot be handled online or by phone. Keep in mind, many questions can be resolved online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) without visiting a TAC (NOTE: many TACs operate by appointment only).

CALL THE TAX CLINIC DIRECTLY  
**(631) 761-7080**