

The Inside Secrets of Offers-in-Compromise

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Inside Secrets to Offers-in-Compromise

- ▶ Preparing for the Offer
- ▶ Which Offer to File
- ▶ Issues with Offers
- ▶ Rescuing the Defaulted Offer



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Before you file the Offer

- ▶ Tax Compliance
- ▶ The RCP calculation
- ▶ Adjust the calculation
- ▶ Clean Up Issues



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Which Offer to File

- ▶ Lump Sum vs. Deferred?
- ▶ Depends upon the RCP calculation
 1. The higher the Future Income, the more expensive the deferred becomes
 2. If little or no future income, deferred may be the better deal

Issues During the Offer

- ▶ Dissipated Assets
- ▶ Non-Cash expenses but cash flow payments
- ▶ Asset valuation
- ▶ Orders of Restitution
- ▶ Salvaging compliance

Issues During the Offer

- ▶ Circular 230 issues
 1. No contingent fees
 2. Conflicts of Interest
 3. No filing purely to delay

Defaulted Offers

- ▶ Taxpayer's who find they cannot make the offer payment may be able to compromise the compromise
- ▶ IRM 5.8.9.4 (01-12-2017) contemplates that a taxpayer may propose an alternative to a defaulted offer.

Compromise of the Compromise

- ▶ IRM 5.8.9.5 (04-23-2018)--"Compromise of a Compromise".
- ▶ Compromise of a compromise should be rare
- ▶ If the taxpayer is unable to pay the balance of an accepted offer the IRS may determine
 - a. the Government would better benefit to not accept a compromise of a compromise
 - b. May decide it is better to compromise the compromise

Compromise of a Compromise

- it may be in the best interest of the government to
- 1) adjust the payment terms
 - 2) formally compromise the existing compromise or
 - 3) obtain managerial approval to settle for the amount already paid and not default the offer.

Compromise of a Compromise

- ▶ IRM 5.19.7.2.15 (01-31-2017)—“Compromise of an Accepted Offer”—provides the requirements for a compromise of a compromise.
- ▶ The taxpayer must be current with their filing and payment compliance requirements.
- ▶ The taxpayer must submit the request to compromise an accepted compromise in letter format (not by filing a new form 656).
- ▶ A current financial statement will be required.

Taxpayers in Bankruptcy

- ▶ 1999 WV: The IRS’s policy of refusing to consider a post-petition offer in compromise submitted by a taxpayer in bankruptcy to be a violation of the anti-discrimination provision of the Bankruptcy Code. See *Mills v. United States (In re Mills)*, 240 B.R. 689 (Bankr. S.D. W. Va. 1999).

Taxpayer’s in Bankruptcy

- ▶ 2013 NC: Same where the taxpayer enters bankruptcy after the compromise has been entered but before all of the terms of the contract have been satisfied, i.e., the compromise has not yet been paid off. See *In re Mead*, Case No. 12-01222-8-JRL (Bankr. E.D.N.C. 2013).
- ▶ Also, 2003 NE: “In this case, the IRS may either process an offer in compromise, which the tax code authorizes any taxpayer to submit, or take seriously its stated position that it will, in good faith, consider accepting less than the bankruptcy code requires in a Chapter 13 plan.”

Questions? Email or Post Them!


