



Rhode Island Department of Revenue Division of Taxation

ADV 2017-36
TAX AMNESTY

ADVISORY FOR TAX PROFESSIONALS
NOVEMBER 17, 2017

Rhode Island's tax amnesty begins two weeks from today

Division will start accepting amnesty paperwork and payments on December 1

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The official launch of Rhode Island's tax amnesty is just two weeks away. On December 1, 2017, the Rhode Island Division of Taxation will begin accepting amnesty-related paperwork and payments.

"Amnesty is almost here. We want to remind taxpayers and tax professionals that they can use our special amnesty website to get the information they need, in advance, to prepare for amnesty. It's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Rhode Island Tax Administrator Neena Savage, who oversees the Division of Taxation. The website address is: www.taxamnesty.ri.gov.

The Division of Taxation has already opened an amnesty phone bank, which has begun fielding amnesty questions from taxpayers, tax professionals, and others. Call (401) 574-8650. The phone bank is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. Or email: Tax.Amnesty@tax.ri.gov.

When the Division of Taxation last week launched an extensive advertising campaign to help spread the word about Rhode Island's new tax amnesty program (see screenshot at right), amnesty ads began appearing on local radio stations, local news websites, and on a major search engine.

But more recently, the campaign has ramped up: Amnesty advertisements or promotions are now appearing in other venues, including newspapers, inside Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) buses, and on Capitol Television, the television production department of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

"Amnesty begins two weeks from today. It's a busy time of year, and we need to get our message out: If you owe back taxes, and you pay what you owe, we will waive penalties and reduce your interest by 25 percent," Savage said.





“We understand that people and businesses can occasionally fall behind on their taxes due to illness, loss of a job, or other matters that can sometimes interrupt lives. Through amnesty, we can help you get a clean slate and get back on track,” she said.

ABOUT AMNESTY

Tax amnesty is a unique opportunity for you to get a fresh start. Pay what you owe in delinquent Rhode Island state taxes – no matter the type of tax. In exchange, the Division will waive penalties and reduce, by 25 percent, the amount of interest normally charged.

Any person, corporation, or other entity that is subject to Rhode Island tax is eligible for amnesty – no matter where that person, corporation, or other entity is located. All Rhode Island state taxes are eligible – including personal income tax, corporate income tax, sales tax, use tax, estate tax, unemployment insurance tax, withholding tax, and other Rhode Island state taxes.

The amnesty applies to taxes due for any taxable period ended on or before December 31, 2016. The Division begins accepting amnesty payments, amnesty tax returns, and related paperwork on December 1, 2017. Amnesty runs through February 15, 2018, and is also open to non-filers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AMNESTY

- Online: www.TaxAmnesty.ri.gov
- By phone: (401) 574-8650 (from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days)
- Email: Tax.Amnesty@tax.ri.gov.

ABOUT THE AMNESTY AD CAMPAIGN

The ad campaign (see example, top of page) was developed by RDW Group under contract with the Rhode Island Division of Taxation, which is part of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue. RDW Group, with headquarters in Providence, is an integrated communications firm, providing advertising, public relations, and related services.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation office is at One Capitol Hill in Providence, R.I., diagonally across from the Smith Street entrance to the State House, and is open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. To learn more, see the agency's website: www.tax.ri.gov, or the amnesty website, www.taxamnesty.ri.gov.
