

News

ARIZONA Department of Revenue

1600 WEST MONROE • PHOENIX ARIZONA 85007

FILE No.: NR09001

March 26, 2009

Contact: Anthony Forschino
Public Information Officer
(602) 716-6921

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE UNVEILS ARIZONA TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM

Arizona is launching a tax amnesty program that will run from May 1 through June 1, 2009. The legislature included the proposal in the budget bill that was passed and signed by Governor Brewer on January 28, 2009. The proposal gives individuals and businesses the opportunity to file past due Arizona state tax returns with no civil penalties and a reduced amount of interest. The goal of this program is to offer relief and a fresh start to those taxpayers who, for whatever reason, underreported or failed to file their taxes.

“Many times, taxpayers get behind in their taxes for reasons beyond their control.” Arizona Department of Revenue Director Gale Garriott explained, “The purpose of the tax amnesty is to give these taxpayers a second chance.”

Some individuals and business are not paying their fair share of taxes. These range from those who don’t realize they should be paying tax to those who deliberately underreport their taxes or refuse to file altogether. When taxpayers underreport or fail to file their taxes, it places an unfair burden on the honest taxpayers who are paying for the essential government services enjoyed by all Arizonans.

-- more --

The Arizona Tax Amnesty period will run from May 1 through June 1, 2009 and the tax types eligible to file for amnesty include individual and corporate income, withholding, luxury, transaction privilege (sales), and use. Amnesty applications will only be accepted from May 1, 2009 through June 1, 2009. The total tax liability must be paid in full with the amnesty application or by June 1, 2009.

For taxes filed on an annual basis, such as income tax, amnesty is available for years beginning on or after January 1, 2002 and ending before January 1, 2008. Taxpayers who file taxes, such as transaction privilege or withholding, on a monthly or quarterly basis are eligible for tax periods beginning on or after January 1, 2003 and ending before January 1, 2008.

“Tax amnesty is an opportunity for those who live, work or do business in Arizona to come clean and pay any back state taxes they owe without any civil penalties or threat of prosecution and with a reduced interest rate, ” said Garriott.

In light of these difficult economic times, tax amnesty benefits both the taxpayers and the state of Arizona. The taxpayers benefit by satisfying their tax obligations with no penalty and reduced interest and the state benefits by the voluntary payments which saves the time and expense of audit and collection efforts.

Taxpayers should visit www.azdor.gov/taxamnesty for more information about the tax amnesty program.

###

If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Anthony Forschino at 602-716-6921 or e-mail Anthony at aforschino@azdor.gov