



**Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC)**  
2101 N. Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

## **DEALING WITH A FEDERAL TAX LIEN**

### **What is a Federal Tax Lien?**

A Federal Tax Lien gives the IRS a legal claim to your property as security or payment for your tax debt. Once a Notice of Federal Tax Lien is filed, your credit rating may be harmed.

### **What do I do if a lien is attached to my property?**

#### **YOU MAY RELEASE OR WITHDRAW THE LIEN**

**RELEASE:** The IRS will release a Federal Tax Lien when:

A tax liability becomes fully paid or legally unenforceable.  
The IRS accepts a bond for payment of the tax.

**Releasing a Federal Tax Lien will not undo the record of the Notice of Federal Tax Lien from your credit history.** The IRS will issue a Release of the Notice of Federal Tax Lien within 30 days after it releases the Federal Tax Lien.

**WITHDRAW:** The IRS will withdraw a Federal Tax Lien if:

The Notice of Federal Tax Lien was filed too soon or not in accordance with IRS procedures.  
You entered into an installment agreement to pay the debt for which the lien was imposed.  
Withdrawing the Federal Tax Lien will speed the collection of the tax liability.  
Withdrawing the Federal Tax Lien would be in your best interests (as determined by the National Taxpayer Advocate)

**By withdrawing a Federal Tax Lien, the Notice of Federal Tax Lien will be discharged from your credit history and treated as if it had not been filed.** The IRS will give you a copy of the withdrawal. You will need to write to the IRS if you want it to send a copy to other institutions you name.

If you do not receive a Release of the Notice of Federal Tax Lien or a copy of the withdrawal, contact the IRS Centralized Lien Unit at 1-800-913-6050.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY  
(714) 571-5200 OR 1-800-834-5001**