



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
401 W. Peachtree Street NW
95WI
Atlanta, Georgia 30308



Date: 02/06/2018
Person to contact: V. Turner
Contact telephone numbers: (816) 499-5900
Email: prisoner_file@irs.gov

Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Secretary Jon E. Litscher
3099 E. Washington Ave
P.O. Box 7925
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Litscher:

Thank you for your department's efforts to reduce inmate tax fraud through our Blue Bag Program (BBP). This program has prevented billions of dollars in fraudulent refunds from reaching prisoners. To build on this success, I'm seeking your support to remind all your prisons to be on alert for traces of tax fraud. As the IRS prepares for the filing season, fraudsters are also preparing ways to defraud the government.

Continuing participation in the program is critical to preventing the spread of fraudulent tax activities that occur when inmates move between state facilities. Preventing fraudulent refunds also helps reduce gang activity, drug sales, and other criminal activities in prisons that fraudulent refunds often support.

In an effort to track prisons participating in the BBP, we're requesting a listing of all prisons in your state, indicating participation or non-participation in the BBP.

To ensure effective coordination between us, please identify one point of contact and provide that person's contact information (name, location, telephone number, and e-mail address) along with the listing of prisons in your state to the BBP e-mail address at prisoner_file@irs.gov, using the email subject line "BBP."

Enclosed are a BBP Fact Sheet and a Prison Lead Spreadsheet. The Fact Sheet provides mailing instructions.

I hope I can count on your support to expand this important program. I look forward to our continued partnership as we work together to reduce inmate tax fraud. If you have questions, please call Vanessa Turner, at (470) 639-3270. She is involved with the administration of the BBP and is best suited to answer your questions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Denise D. Davis, Director
Return Integrity Operations

Enclosure:
Fact Sheet - IRS Blue Bag Program



IRS BLUE BAG PROGRAM: FACT SHEET

Blue Bag Program (BBP) History

The IRS Return Integrity and Compliance Services (RICS) External Leads Blue Bag Program cooperates with prisons in monitoring inmates' tax related communications to reduce inmate tax fraud. Historically, prisons mailed tax related communications in IRS-supplied blue bags; this included any documents that came to their attention, giving rise to the Blue Bag Program. Those bags have since given way to other secure mailing media, but the program name remains.

Prisons in all 50 states participate in this expanding program. Participating state and federal prisons send us inmate materials to evaluate, including potentially fraudulent returns and refund checks. Participating prisons reduce circulation of illicit funds and limit the opportunities for unlawful inmate behavior.

Blue Bag Procedures

Prison officials intercept federal tax refund checks, blank forms and IRS publications that have been mailed to an inmate and mail from an inmate to the IRS. These documents are either destroyed or forwarded for review to our office. We validate these items and process them following specific guidelines.

Correspondence to be sent to the IRS or destroyed

Incoming mail: Please destroy IRS publications and blank IRS federal tax returns. **Please contact the IRS to validate Federal Refund Checks using the Prison Lead Spreadsheet.**

- **Prison Institutions: Submit Prison Lead Spreadsheet via fax to 855-841-6080 or 816-499-7884**
- If the inmate's refund check is valid, the refund check validation sheet is returned to the institution via fax, indicating that it is valid. If refund check is questionable, the Prison Official will be asked to mail the check to: **Internal Revenue Service, MS 6575 Prisoner Check KCSC, 333 W Pershing Rd, Kansas City, MO 64108**

Outgoing inmate mail addressed to the IRS that should be included in the Blue Bag process:

- Completed federal tax returns.

Outgoing inmate mail addressed to the IRS that should NOT be included in the Blue Bag process:

- All Responses (excluding completed federal tax returns) addressed to the IRS from the taxpayer, should be mailed through the facility's normal mailing process.

Inmate data we need with each mailing

Full name, Identification number, Date of incarceration, Release date, Inmate's SSN

Prison institution data we need with each mailing

Prison name and address, Sending official's name and telephone number

Mail all requested BBP federal tax returns to:

Internal Revenue Service

MS 6575 KCSC

333 W. Pershing Rd

Kansas City, MO 64108

Blue Bag Program contact information for Prison Officials use only

- E-mail us at prisoner_file@irs.gov (preferably), using the literal "BBP" on the subject line.
- Call the Blue Bag Hotline at **(816) 499-5900**

