

Tax Enforcement

IRS to Roll Out Passport Denial Program Slowly in 2018



By Kat Lucero

The IRS will do a slow launch of a passport denial program with the U.S. State Department in January 2018, an agency official said.

"We're not going to dump every case that we have," Mary Beth Murphy, commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service Small Business/Self-Employed Division, said in response to a question about the program at a UCLA Extension Tax Controversy Institute meeting.

The program, required by the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, will allow the State Department to deny or revoke a passport of a U.S. taxpayer who owes more than \$50,000 in long-delinquent tax debt. The IRS is to share tax-delinquent data with State and later set up a payment arrangement with the taxpayer, Murphy said.

She said the launch would be similar to the agency's rollout of the private tax debt collection program, which was also created by the 2015 law.

"It's going to be a learning process. It will be a randomly selected number of cases that will go over to the Department of State," Murphy said.

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